2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 45

## BY REPRESENTATIVE GEYMANN

## SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: To designate Wednesday, April 23, 2025, as McNeese State University Day at the Capitol

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To designate Wednesday, April 23, 2025, as McNeese State University Day at the Capitol
3	and to commend McNeese State University for its recent successes and contributions
4	to the State of Louisiana.
5	WHEREAS, McNeese State University, faced with a decade long decline in
6	enrollment, undertook a comprehensive rightsizing effort to restore financial sustainability
7	and strengthen its educational mission; and
8	WHEREAS, all McNeese stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and
9	community partners, collaborated to craft a clear, focused strategic plan aimed squarely at
10	reversing enrollment declines; and
11	WHEREAS, early results of this strategic effort are exceptionally promising, where
12	the fall 2024 enrollment climbed by three percent to six thousand two hundred forty-three
13	students, the first increase in enrollment in fourteen years and spring 2025 enrollment rose
14	by three and six-tenths of a percent, which was the first spring over spring gain in fifteen
15	years; and
16	WHEREAS, interest from prospective students has surged, evidenced by Preview
17	Day attendance jumping by sixty-two percent, to seven hundred ninety-eight students;
18	Cowboy Commitment Day attendance increasing by thirty-six and seven tenths percent to
19	seven hundred twenty-nine students; the number of high school students sending ACT scores
20	to McNeese doubling this spring; and applications for fall 2025 increasing by thirteen
21	percent; and

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WHEREAS, Southwest Louisiana communities are abuzz with pride, as social media 2 engagement and website visits hit record highs, reflecting widespread excitement about 3 McNeese's resurgence; and

4 WHEREAS, McNeese students are distinguishing themselves academically by presenting original research at national conferences and in the arts with theater students 5 6 competing in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival and reaching the 7 regional round for the first time in university history; and

8 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Coach Will Wade, the McNeese State 9 University men's basketball team's dynamic performance in the 2025 National Collegiate 10 Athletic Association tournament captured national attention, showcasing the talent and 11 tenacity of the Cowboys and shining a spotlight on the university across the country; and

12 WHEREAS, the Cowboy family's rallying cry, "Ride for the Brand", speaks to the 13 spirit of unity, ambition, and limitless possibility that defines McNeese State University; and 14 WHEREAS, it is fitting that the Louisiana House of Representatives pause its 15 deliberations to honor McNeese State University's outstanding achievements, to 16 acknowledge its positive impact on students and communities across the state, and to 17 celebrate the bright future ahead.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 19 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Wednesday, April 23, 2025, as McNeese 20 State University Day at the Capitol in recognition of the university's exemplary rightsizing, 21 strategic planning, enrollment gains, community engagement, and student accomplishments. 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 23 President of McNeese State University as a token of the House of Representatives' esteem 24 and appreciation.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Designates Wed., April 23, 2025, as McNeese State University Day at the Capitol.