

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY REPRESENTATIVE GEYMANN

A RESOLUTION

To designate Wednesday, April 23, 2025, as McNeese State University Day at the state capitol and to commend McNeese State University for its recent successes and contributions to the State of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, McNeese State University, faced with a decade long decline in enrollment, undertook a comprehensive rightsizing effort to restore financial sustainability and strengthen its educational mission; and

WHEREAS, all McNeese stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners, collaborated to craft a clear, focused strategic plan aimed squarely at reversing enrollment declines; and

WHEREAS, early results of this strategic effort are exceptionally promising, where the fall 2024 enrollment climbed by three percent to six thousand two hundred forty-three students, the first increase in enrollment in fourteen years and spring 2025 enrollment rose by three and six-tenths of a percent, which was the first spring over spring gain in fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, interest from prospective students has surged, evidenced by Preview Day attendance jumping by sixty-two percent, to seven hundred ninety-eight students; Cowboy Commitment Day attendance increasing by thirty-six and seven tenths percent to seven hundred twenty-nine students; the number of high school students sending ACT scores to McNeese doubling this spring; and applications for fall 2025 increasing by thirteen percent; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Cowboy family's rallying cry, "Ride for the Brand", speaks to the spirit of unity, ambition, and limitless possibility that defines McNeese State University; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the Louisiana House of Representatives pause its deliberations to honor McNeese State University's outstanding achievements, to acknowledge its positive impact on students and communities across the state, and to celebrate the bright future ahead.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Wednesday, April 23, 2025, as McNeese State University Day at the state capitol in recognition of the university's exemplary rightsizing, strategic planning, enrollment gains, community engagement, and student accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of McNeese State University as a token of the House of Representatives' esteem and appreciation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES