

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 102

BY SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVES BROWN AND COX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Randall J. Webb for his commitment, service, singular contributions, and outstanding accomplishments upon his retirement as president of Northwestern State University and to express gratitude for his exemplary term of dedicated and highly productive public service.

WHEREAS, Dr. Randall J. Webb has served as president of Northwestern State University since 1996 and in July will become the university's longest serving president; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Webb's leadership, Northwestern State University has received well-deserved national and international attention for its academic programs and student accomplishments; university facilities have been renovated to better serve students; and two capital campaigns have set fundraising records at the school; and

WHEREAS, he has led the move toward higher admissions standards at the university which has resulted in students having greater academic potential and aptitude and the university has had its largest graduating classes in school history during his tenure as president; and

WHEREAS, retention has increased at Northwestern State University, the average ACT score of students has gone up, and high school student leaders have enrolled at the university in record numbers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Webb has also expanded the university's outreach by spearheading the development at NSU of the largest electronic education and distance learning network of any university in Louisiana as the university offers courses and thirty-four accredited degree programs to students across the nation and world through Internet and compressed video and several university online programs have been rated as being among the best buys in the United States; and

WHEREAS, millions of dollars have been obtained during his presidency for new and renovated facilities with new facilities including the Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center, Student Services Center, University Place I and II residence halls while Morrison Hall, the Family and Consumer Sciences Building, Williamson Hall, Russell Hall and Caspari Hall have been completely renovated and restored; and

WHEREAS, Northwestern State University has achieved Tier I status in the United State News and World Report ranking of regional universities on two occasions and the master's program in nursing was rated as one of the Top 100; and

WHEREAS, a new Doctor of Nursing Practice program was created along with a Post Master's Certificate in Global Security and Intelligence and a master's in homeland security and the university has added new undergraduate academic programs in theatre, criminal justice, unified public safety administration, organizational leadership, addiction studies, liberal arts, general studies, communication, and allied health; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Webb has held positions of leadership at the national level in intercollegiate athletics, serving as chair of the board of directors of the Southland Conference and as a member of the prestigious NCAA Executive Council and the NCAA Division I Board of Directors that oversee all major policy decisions by the governing body for major college sports, while also serving as the Southland Conference representative on the NCAA Presidential Advisory Group; and

WHEREAS, he has been active in the community as a member of the board of directors of the Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, the Natchitoches Historic Foundation, the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Society, Rotary Club, and the First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Randall Webb and his wife Brenda have two daughters, both honor graduates of Northwestern who are each married to former NSU student-athletes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Randall J. Webb for his outstanding accomplishments upon his retirement as president of Northwestern State University, does hereby record for posterity his commitment, contributions, and remarkable service as president, does hereby express

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enduring gratitude for his extraordinary contributions, and does hereby extend to him best wishes for full measures of success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Randall J. Webb.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES