

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 123

BY SENATOR BISHOP

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Dillard University on its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Dillard University upon the occasion of its one hundred fiftieth anniversary.

3 WHEREAS, Dillard University is celebrating its one hundred fiftieth year of  
4 providing excellence in higher education to the state, nation, and world; and

5 WHEREAS, the roots of Dillard University were planted in 1869 when philanthropist  
6 Seymour Straight was assisted by an abolitionist group, American Missionary Association  
7 of the Congregational Church, to found Straight University, one of the first African  
8 American universities in Louisiana; in 2017, the Preservation Resource Center completed  
9 a renovation of the only remaining edifice of Straight University, which had been built  
10 between 1866 and 1871 and served as a boarding house and dining hall; and

11 WHEREAS, New Orleans University was founded in 1872 by the Methodist  
12 Episcopal church; by the early 20th century, New Orleans University and Straight University  
13 were beset by insufficient funds, and the administrations of both universities desired to  
14 locate closer to the city's black population; and

15 WHEREAS, the cornerstone of the campus of the combined universities was laid on  
16 May 27, 1934, on Gentilly Boulevard, and Dillard University opened for enrollment on  
17 September 24, 1935; the architect for the campus, Moise Goldstein, designed the stately  
18 main buildings in a classical revival style; its gleaming white buildings are highlighted by

1 formal and ornate landscaping; and

2 WHEREAS, Dillard University was called "one of the country's most beautiful and  
3 serene campuses" by Donna Fricker in a 2003 article in *Preservation in Print* magazine and  
4 the university was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 10, 2003; in  
5 the nomination, Dillard's statewide significance in the areas of education and African  
6 American heritage were cited, and the formal architecture and landscape design of its  
7 campus were praised; and

8 WHEREAS, Dillard University is a source of pride in the higher education  
9 community of New Orleans, and it is fitting to recognize the one hundred fiftieth anniversary  
10 of an institution that has impacted the lives of all who pass through its portals; and

11 WHEREAS, Dillard University merits a special measure of commendation upon the  
12 celebration of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of its founding.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
14 does hereby commend the administration, staff, and students upon the one hundred fiftieth  
15 anniversary celebration of Dillard University, recognize and record for posterity the pride  
16 and honor that it brings to the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana, and extend  
17 best wishes for continued success.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
19 Dillard University president, Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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DIGEST

SR 123 Original                      2019 Regular Session                      Bishop

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