

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATORS CATHEY, ABRAHAM, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Nick J. Bruno, president of the University of Louisiana Monroe, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, after a forty-five year career in higher education, University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) President Nick J. Bruno, PhD has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, projects and completion have defined Dr. Bruno's presidency since being appointed by the UL System as the eighth president of the university effective November 8, 2010; and

WHEREAS, as president, he immediately reached out to the community by creating the Business & Community Advisory Committee, a group that analyzes the workforce needs of the region; Dr. Bruno knew of the economic and educational needs of the area from 2002-2005, as he served as ULM Associate Vice President for Business Affairs and then Vice President for Business Affairs; he departed ULM for the UL System office in Baton Rouge, where he was Vice President for Business and Finance for over five years before he was appointed president; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bruno returned to ULM with a vision of taking the university beyond the geographic confines of Northeast Louisiana to the national stage as an institution with dynamic research and offering more programs in the health sciences, and as an institution of higher education providing multiple degree programs in high-paying, high-demand fields - the STEM majors of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, he consolidated the university into four colleges in 2016 - the College of Arts, Education and Sciences, College of Business and Social Sciences, College of Health

Sciences, and College of Pharmacy which centralized schools, programs, and departments under deans dedicated to enhancing those fields within each college; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, ULM was elevated from a regional to a national university by receiving the Carnegie R3 Doctoral University classification and recognition by *U.S. News & World Report* as a Best National University, both for the first time in its then eighty-five-year history; and

WHEREAS, among Dr. Bruno's most significant of many accomplishments at ULM was securing the partnership with the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine to build a medical school on the ULM campus; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Bruno's administration, facilities were added, expanded, and renovated, including \$5 million renovations to Brown Stadium and Groseclose Track, construction of the \$7 million Bayou Pointe Student Event Center, installation of a \$3 million Doppler radar weather system, renovation of the former president's home, University House - a facility for campus guests, construction of the \$800,000 Wally Jones Golf Complex, renovation of Sandel Hall, resulting in the first one-stop student center/academic building in Louisiana, and Sugar and Caldwell halls are scheduled for renovation beginning in 2021 to house the new Doctor of Physical Therapy School and health sciences classrooms and lab; and

WHEREAS, the ULM Foundation's SOAR Campaign started in 2013 with a goal of \$55.4 million; however, when the campaign closed at the end of FY 2018, that goal was exceeded with a total of more than \$56 million - the first capital campaign in ULM's history; and

WHEREAS, campus beautification, enhanced technology in the classroom, and access for students, plus expanded campus housing have been continuous under Dr. Bruno; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bruno served on the boards of numerous civic, government, and private organizations including the West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the St. Francis Medical Center Board of Directors where he continues to serve; he is also a member of the Ouachita Business Alliance, and the Workforce Development Board Area 81; and

WHEREAS, he was honored for his outstanding service in February 2020 with the Monroe Chamber of Commerce's highest honor, the Rambin-Silverstein Memorial Civic Award which recognizes a resident of Northeast Louisiana who has demonstrated achievement, leadership, and service for the benefit of the greater community; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, President Bruno gracefully led ULM during the COVID-19 crisis, serving as a reminder of his commitment and dedication to both the university and the northeast Louisiana community, and such commitment and dedication is most deserving of recognition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend University of Louisiana Monroe President Nick J. Bruno on the occasion of his retirement, does hereby express genuine appreciation to Dr. Bruno for his commitment and contributions to the advancement of the University of Louisiana Monroe and of northeast Louisiana, and does hereby extend sincere best wishes for Dr. Bruno's continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to President Nick J. Bruno.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE