

2022 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY SENATOR FIELDS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Dr. Ray L. Belton, president of the Southern University System and chancellor of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge for his service to the Southern University System and the state of Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Dr. Ray L. Belton upon his announced retirement as president of the Southern
3 University System and chancellor of Southern University and Agricultural and
4 Mechanical College at Baton Rouge for his outstanding accomplishments, his years
5 of public service, and his contributions to the Southern University System and the
6 entire state of Louisiana.

7 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Dr. Ray L. Belton as the tenth president
8 of the Southern University System, a position in which he has served with great honor and
9 distinction, providing oversight for all five campuses in the system; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Belton has over thirty-five years of service with the Southern
11 University System, the only historically Black university system in America, and has
12 announced his retirement effective this fall; and

13 WHEREAS, he has served as a chief executive officer in the System for twenty-one
14 years; first as the chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport and then as
15 president-chancellor for the System and Southern University at Baton Rouge; and

16 WHEREAS, during all of his years of service, Dr. Belton has always prioritized the
17 best interests of the students; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2015, when the Southern University's Board of Supervisors combined

1 the roles of president of the System and chancellor of Southern University at Baton Rouge,
2 Dr. Belton stepped up and made history by accepting the daunting new position; and

3 WHEREAS, as president-chancellor, he has more than met the challenge of
4 simultaneously fulfilling two demanding roles, he has greatly improved both the system and
5 the institution by implementing new programs and strategic initiatives that have increased
6 efficiencies, boosted enrollment, strengthened teaching and learning, improved student
7 success, enhanced academic research and development, expanded fundraising, multiplied
8 philanthropic giving, and elevated alumni engagement; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Belton has additionally overseen the remarkable turnaround of
10 Southern University Baton Rouge's athletic department, ascending from a period when only
11 three of the institution's collegiate teams were eligible for postseason competition to, a
12 history first, where all fifteen of its teams are now eligible; and

13 WHEREAS, under his leadership both Southern University Shreveport and Southern
14 University Baton Rouge saw unprecedented capital improvements to structures that serve
15 both academia and student life; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Belton's steadfast dedication has not been limited to the Southern
17 University System and its institutions as exemplified in his work to improve the entire
18 postsecondary education enterprise for all of Louisiana's citizens; and

19 WHEREAS, he has diligently worked with the Louisiana Board of Regents, the
20 presidents of other Louisiana postsecondary management boards, the State Board of
21 Elementary and Secondary Education, and local public school governing authorities to
22 ensure students can readily access postsecondary educational services and successfully
23 navigate the pathways to high-value postsecondary credentials; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Belton has worked with business and industry, as well as workforce
25 development organizations, to help ensure graduates have a seamless path to careers; and

26 WHEREAS, he has held several national leadership positions, including serving on
27 the Board of Trustees of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of
28 Colleges and Schools; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Belton's tireless dedication to promote and enhance the System, the
30 institutions of the System, and the state of Louisiana is greatly appreciated; and

1 WHEREAS, upon his retirement this Fall, Dr. Belton will leave behind the System
2 and its institutions, the Louisiana postsecondary education enterprise, and the state of
3 Louisiana better in every respect.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
5 does hereby commend Dr. Ray L. Belton, president of the Southern University System and
6 chancellor of Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge, for his outstanding
7 service to the Southern University System and the entire state of Louisiana.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
9 Dr. Ray L. Belton.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

SR 40 Original	DIGEST 2022 Regular Session	Fields
Commends Dr. Ray L. Belton, president of the Southern University System and chancellor of Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge for his outstanding service to the Southern University System and the entire state of Louisiana.		