

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends LSU Health New Orleans, Chancellor Dr. Steve Nelson, and the LSU Health Foundation for the gift of \$7.5 million from the Estate of Marcia and Billy Beer to fully fund medical school scholarships.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the LSU Health Foundation New Orleans and Dr. Steve Nelson, Interim  
3 Chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, upon receipt of a \$7.5  
4 million gift to fund ten four-year scholarships to the medical school.

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Steve Nelson's leadership in academic medicine, notably as Dean  
6 of the Medical School and Interim Chancellor at LSU Health Sciences Center, has been  
7 characterized by a tireless pursuit of excellence and innovation; and

8 WHEREAS, a graduate of State University of New York at Stony Brook, Dr. Steve  
9 Nelson earned a medical degree as a University Scholar at McGill University, and completed  
10 a residency in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins University along with a Clinical  
11 Fellowship in Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine, a Research Fellowship in Pulmonary  
12 Medicine, as well as a Fellowship in Environmental Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins  
13 University School of Hygiene and Public; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Steve Nelson's illustrious career has spanned decades of unwavering  
15 dedication to the advancement of medical science, healthcare education, and compassionate  
16 patient care; he joined the faculty of the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans in  
17 1984, became the John H. Seabury Professor of Medicine in 1985, and further held joint  
18 appointments in the Departments of Physiology, Microbiology, Immunology, and

1 Parasitology, and in the School of Graduate Studies; and

2 WHEREAS, confidence in Dr. Nelson's leadership, dedication, and experience in the  
3 advancement of medical science and healthcare education is evidenced through the  
4 generosity of the Estate of Marcia and Billy Beer in the recent gift of \$7.5 million to the  
5 LSU Health New Orleans Foundation; and

6 WHEREAS, this generous endowment, the largest in the Foundation's history, sets  
7 a new standard for philanthropy in support of medical education and will have a profound  
8 and lasting impact on the lives of countless aspiring physicians and the communities they  
9 serve; and

10 WHEREAS, the decision to allocate these funds for four-year tuition scholarships  
11 at the LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine reflects a deep commitment to fostering  
12 the next generation of healthcare professionals; and

13 WHEREAS, by funding additional scholarships through the interest earned on this  
14 gift while preserving the principal, the Beer family has ensured that their legacy will  
15 continue to benefit future generations of students indefinitely; and

16 WHEREAS, the unique request from the Beers family, asking scholarship recipients  
17 to give back by providing one day of free medical care each month upon completing their  
18 medical training, demonstrates a profound understanding of the importance of  
19 compassionate healthcare and community service; a stipulation that not only honors the  
20 spirit of generosity embodied by the Beer family but reinforces the values of altruism and  
21 empathy within the medical profession; and

22 WHEREAS, through the foresight and generosity of the Estate of Marcia and Billy  
23 Beer for this transformative gift to LSU Health New Orleans Foundation, their legacy will  
24 endure through the countless lives touched by the recipients of these scholarships, who will  
25 carry forward their spirit of generosity and service throughout their medical careers.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
27 does hereby commend Dr. Steve Nelson, Interim Chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center  
28 New Orleans, for his dedication to medical education and the Beer Family for their foresight  
29 and generosity of this extraordinary gift of \$7.5 million to the LSU Health New Orleans  
30 Foundation providing four-year scholarships to LSU Health New Orleans School of

1 Medicine in perpetuity.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr.  
3 Steve Nelson, Interim Chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans and Mr.  
4 Michael Flick, long-term friend and executor of the Estate of Marcia and Billy Beer.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

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SR 64 Original

DIGEST  
2024 Regular Session

Duplessis

Commends Dr. Steve Nelson, Interim Chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, and the Estate of Marcia and Billy Beer Family for their extraordinary gift of \$7.5 million gift to the LSU Health New Orleans Foundation funding four-year scholarships to LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine.