

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION congratulating Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett on her retirement from the Presidency of the University of Southern Indiana.

BECKER, TOMES

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION congratulating Dr.
2 Linda L. M. Bennett on her retirement from the Presidency of
3 the University of Southern Indiana.

4 *Whereas, Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett is a native of Cincinnati,*
5 *Ohio, where she earned her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral*
6 *degrees in political science from the University of Cincinnati;*

7 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett was associated with Wittenberg*
8 *University from 1983-1996, where she chaired the Department*
9 *of Political Science from 1994-1996 and became a professor in*
10 *1996;*

11 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett served as dean of the College of Arts*
12 *and Sciences and professor of political science at Appalachian*
13 *State University from 1999-2003, where she established a*
14 *college-wide Diversity Committee to develop strategies for*
15 *faculty recruitment and retention and led the College of Arts*
16 *and Sciences Advancement Council in statewide fund-raising*
17 *efforts including a capital campaign raising more than \$5*
18 *million;*

19 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett served as provost and vice president*
20 *for Academic Affairs at the University of Southern Indiana from*
21 *2003 until 2009;*

22 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett became the University of Southern*
23 *Indiana's third president in July, 2009;*



1 *Whereas, During her first year as president, Dr. Bennett*
2 *led the effort to establish the University of Southern Indiana's*
3 *first strategic plan. The plan included efforts to raise the*
4 *University's academic standards, admitting students most likely*
5 *to succeed at a four-year university and became the foundation*
6 *of the University's second capital campaign, which raised more*
7 *than \$57 million;*

8 *Whereas, During Dr. Bennett's tenure, the University grew*
9 *with over \$100 million in building projects, including the*
10 *Business and Engineering Center, Performance Center, Lenny*
11 *and Anne Dowhie Ceramics Center, Applied Engineering*
12 *Center, Griffin Center, University Center East Renovation, the*
13 *USI-Burdette Trail, and several additional projects currently*
14 *under construction;*

15 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett is a strong advocate in strengthening*
16 *the relationship with the University of Southern Indiana and*
17 *Naval Surface Warfare Center at Crane, which resulted in*
18 *bringing Crane scientists and researchers together with*
19 *students, faculty, and business people to develop patents, create*
20 *start-up businesses and elevate the University and Crane*
21 *through a continuing partnership that began in 2007;*

22 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett coordinated self-study, which led to*
23 *the approval of the University of Southern Indiana's first*
24 *doctoral program, Doctor of Nursing Practice, by the Higher*
25 *Learning Commission. The University has since been approved*
26 *to offer its second doctoral program, a Doctor of Education*
27 *program;*

28 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett oversaw the expansion of the*
29 *Bachelor of Science in engineering degree program with the*
30 *addition of Manufacturing Engineering and Mechanical*
31 *Engineering. The manufacturing engineering degree was the*
32 *first of its kind in the state and one of only around 20 programs*
33 *in the country;*

34 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett oversaw the Master of Business*
35 *Administration expansion to be available on campus and online*



1 *with areas of concentration including accounting, data*
2 *analytics, engineering management, healthcare administration*
3 *and human resource management;*

4
5 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett has led initiatives at the University of*
6 *Southern Indiana focused on enrollment and retention*
7 *management, outreach and engagement, faculty development,*
8 *the retention of intellectual capital, accreditation renewal and*
9 *long-range planning;*

10 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett was recognized as the 2015 Rotary*
11 *Club of Evansville's Civic Award winner, the 2016 Indiana*
12 *Commission for Women Torchbearer Award and Trailblazer*
13 *Award, and the 2017 Boy Scouts of America Buffalo Trace*
14 *Council Distinguished Citizen Award; and*

15 *Whereas, Dr. Bennett's fourteen years of leadership have*
16 *ensured a brighter tomorrow for education, culture, economic*
17 *development, and our young people. Her focus and success,*
18 *and that of the institution she so passionately leads, is making*
19 *the University of Southern Indiana a force for development in*
20 *the community, region, state, and beyond: Therefore,*

21 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*
22 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

23 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly
24 congratulates Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett on the occasion of her
25 retirement from the Presidency of the University of Southern
26 Indiana and wishes her health and happiness in the years to
27 come.

28 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
29 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Dr. Linda L. M.
30 Bennett.

