

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6024

A RESOLUTION commemorating Bethany College's 135 years of educational service to the City of Lindsborg and to the entire state of Kansas.

WHEREAS, Swedish immigrants, inspired by their commitment to educate those without access to education, established Bethany College in 1881 and started a long tradition of quality education in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Bethany College is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, Bethany College is located in Lindsborg, Kansas, the Fine Arts and Crafts Capital of Kansas, and offers students the opportunity to live and study in one of Kansas' most distinctive communities. Lindsborg abounds with artist studios, art galleries, craft shops, import gift shops and other attractions, such as the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery, located on the Bethany campus, the Lester Raymer Red Barn Studio, and the McPherson County Old Mill Museum and historical complex; and

WHEREAS, Bethany College's cultural impact in the area includes the longest-running presentation of Handel's "Messiah" in the United States, which has run for 136 consecutive years, and being the home of Bethany Oratorio Society, which consists of more than 320 members from communities across Central Kansas. Its wide selection of theatrical offerings, gallery art exhibitions, and lectures, which include the annual Pearson Distinguished Professor of Swedish Studies lecture series, all add to the cultural fabric of the Smoky Valley; and

WHEREAS, Bethany College is home to Presser Hall Auditorium, which was built in 1928 and is recognized as one of the finest music facilities in the United States. Today, Presser Hall serves as the mainstage for the Bethany Oratorio Society and many other college and community cultural productions. It also houses the Thomson-Mingenback Concert Organ, one of the largest pipe organs in the central United States, which has more than 4,000 pipes that range in size from 8 inches to 32 feet; and

WHEREAS, There are more than 4,500 Bethany College alumni who live in Kansas, including more than 1,300 who reside in McPherson and Saline counties. Bethany College alumni are successful in many areas. They include 610 alumni who serve as teachers, coaches or administrators in Kansas schools, 74 who serve as doctors, dentists, veterinarians and pharmacists in Kansas, and hundreds of business leaders throughout Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Bethany alumni, serving Kansas as successful professionals, who love God and love people include: Terry Holdren, CEO/General Counsel of the Kansas Farm Bureau and recently appointed governor's task force member; Sarah Schiltz, the youngest female partner in the history of MarksNelson in Kansas City; Matt Allen, city manager of Garden City; Collin Carlson, a Salina South High School teacher who was awarded the Horizon Teacher of the Year award in 2015; Art Newcomer, a retired Kansas education administrator and athletic director; Dr. Keir Swisher, director of emergency medicine at Salina Regional Health Center; and Dr. Justin Klaassen, a trauma surgeon in Salina; and

WHEREAS, Bethany alumni business leaders include Ron Paulsen, owner of Paulsen Financial Group, Wichita; Ross and Grant Tidemann, real estate brokers with J.P. Weigand & Sons, Inc., Wichita; agri-leaders Vance and Louise Ehmke, Healy; Ed and Nelson Newcomer, owners of the D.H. Pace Company's Overhead Door Group, Olathe; and Mark Houghton, owner of Central Plastics, Inc., McPherson; and

WHEREAS, Bethany alumni also serve as elected officials in Kansas and include Susan Concannon, Beloit, a member of the Kansas House of Representatives representing the 107th District; and

WHEREAS, Bethany College contributes to the economic well-being of Central Kansas by adding more than \$15 million annually to the regional economy through more than 700 students from 38 states and 22 countries, more than 100 full-time faculty and staff, and nearly 70 part-time faculty and staff; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Bethany College is to educate, develop and challenge individuals to seek truth and excellence as they lead lives of faith, learning and service. All those associated with Bethany College — students, faculty, staff and alumni — are united behind Bethany's core values of integrity, hospitality, community, servant leadership and sustainability. These are the values at the heart of the Bethany College experience: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we commemorate Bethany College's 135 years of educational service to the City of Lindsborg and to the entire state of Kansas; and

Be it further resolved: That we are honored to offer Bethany College sincere congratulations and wish the college many more successful years.

House Resolution No. 6024 was sponsored by Representatives Steven C. Johnson and Susan Concannon.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.