

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes April 18, 2023, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day at the state capitol

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize Tuesday, April 18, 2023, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities
3 (HBCU) Day at the state capitol.

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana is proud to be home to eight Historically Black Colleges and
5 Universities: Dillard University, Grambling State University, Southern University and A&M
6 College, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Southern
7 University Law Center, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University
8 Shreveport, and Xavier University of Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana is also home to the nation's only HBCU System, the Southern
10 University System, which is uniquely positioned as an exemplar with a profound
11 commitment to research and student success; and

12 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives would be remiss if it did not welcome two
13 of Louisiana's HBCU presidents to the state of Louisiana; and

14 WHEREAS, the Southern University System welcomed new leadership in 2022,
15 naming Dennis J. Shields as president of the system and chancellor of its flagship, Southern
16 University and A&M College; and

17 WHEREAS, under president-chancellor Shields' leadership, informed by over forty
18 years of higher education experience, each Southern University campus continues to
19 advance, support, and promote economic, cultural, and workforce development initiatives
20 that bring benefits beyond the borders of the great state of Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, on July 1, 2023, Rochelle L. Ford, Ph.D., APR, was named the eighth
2 president of Dillard University; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Ford has built a robust resume in higher education administration,
4 research, and instruction and is recognized nationally for her work in public relations; and

5 WHEREAS, under President Ford's leadership, Dillard will prioritize advancing
6 equity and opportunities through economic development with world-class education and
7 workforce training, sustainability and innovation, improving cybersecurity, promoting safe
8 and equitable communities, food equity, physical and mental health, and entrepreneurship;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, since their establishment one hundred eighty-seven years ago, HBCUs
11 have continued to build a legacy of excellence, achievement, and inclusion; and

12 WHEREAS, in the face of discrimination against Black Americans by many
13 institutions of higher education, HBCUs created pathways to opportunity and educational
14 excellence for Black students throughout our nation, building America's black middle class;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Louisiana's HBCUs collectively enrolled 23,071 students in 2022-2023;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, HBCU graduates are exemplary public servants, scientists, doctors,
19 artists, lawyers, judges, engineers, educators, entertainers, business owners, and leaders; and

20 WHEREAS, the pageantry, traditions, bands, and rivalries of HBCUs are second to
21 none; and

22 WHEREAS, the legacy and history of Louisiana's HBCUs will, for the first time, be
23 permanently installed in the Capitol Park Museum; and

24 WHEREAS, Louisiana's HBCUs have distinguished themselves in numerous ways,
25 both nationally and in the state; and

26 WHEREAS, Dillard University will offer its first master of science in nursing in Fall
27 2023, and is recognized for its National Institute of Health Center for Minority Health and
28 Health Equity Research, its nationally ranked mock trial program and Center for Racial
29 Justice, and for producing distinguished alumni such as Justice Orelia Merchant, who has

1 been nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as a United States District Court Judge for
2 the Eastern District of New York; and

3 WHEREAS, Grambling State University is the leading producer of computer science
4 graduates in the state, is the only institution to offer bachelor's degree programs in
5 cybersecurity and cloud computing, is currently constructing the first digital library at an
6 HBCU and on a Louisiana college campus, and consistently produces graduates in
7 recession-proof jobs in the fields of accounting, information technology, education, and
8 beyond; and

9 WHEREAS, Southern University and A&M College, a Carnegie Research 2
10 institution with high research activity, celebrates one hundred forty-three years of academic
11 and social progress, serves communities through various programs, including its School of
12 Nursing partnership with the Ochsner Health System to create the "Jag Mobile" community
13 health unit, and produces distinguished alumni such as recent Medal of Freedom honoree
14 Colonel Paris Davis (retired), who received the honor from President Joe Biden in March
15 2023; and

16 WHEREAS, Southern University at New Orleans will begin its bachelor of science
17 in nursing and bachelor of science in cybersecurity programs in Fall 2023 and has taken
18 critical steps to support community mental wellness by establishing a Grief and Trauma
19 Center, Counseling Center, and ZEN Room on its campus; and

20 WHEREAS, Southern University Shreveport (SUSLA) celebrates fifty-five years of
21 providing an accessible, excellent educational experience to students and programming for
22 its surrounding community, has unveiled the Roy Griggs School of Business to advance
23 SUSLA's academic and workforce priorities by helping to close gaps in the region and assist
24 in business retention and expansion efforts, and has been approved by the Louisiana Board
25 of Regents to offer more than ten new academic programs; and

26 WHEREAS, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center has
27 established the Mobile Education & Technology Center to travel across the state of
28 Louisiana to bring internet access, hands-on testing, and live instruction to the most
29 marginalized areas and remote corners of the state, and the related College of Agricultural,
30 Family and Consumer Science hosts the environmental toxicology Ph.D. program, the only

1 program of its kind in Louisiana, offering four areas of specialization in chemical and
2 biochemical toxicology: cellular and molecular biology, developmental biology, material
3 science, and bioinformatics; and

4 WHEREAS, Southern University Law Center is celebrating seventy-five years of
5 opening doors for legal professionals; under the leadership of Chancellor John K. Pierre, the
6 Law Center continues to thrive as a progressive and transformational legal education
7 institution that provides access and opportunity to its students and community through
8 innovative programming and experiential learning; and

9 WHEREAS, Xavier University of Louisiana was recognized as the most successful
10 HBCU for upward mobility and third in the nation for economic return on investment in
11 2022 and recently announced its plans to establish a College of Medicine with Ochsner
12 Health System, which will be the fifth HBCU medical school in the nation.

13 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges
14 and Universities for their outstanding achievements and to commend their numerous alumni
15 for their contributions to their local communities, the state, and the world.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Tuesday, April 18, 2023, as Historically
18 Black Colleges and Universities Day at the state capitol and does hereby acknowledge
19 Louisiana's HBCUs for their invaluable contributions to our residents and state.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 32 Original

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