

2020 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR CATHEY

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Dr. Nick J. Bruno, president of the University of Louisiana Monroe, on his retirement.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Dr. Nick J. Bruno, president of the University of Louisiana Monroe, on the
3 occasion of his retirement.

4 WHEREAS, after a forty-five year career in higher education, University of
5 Louisiana Monroe (ULM) President Nick J. Bruno, PhD has announced his retirement
6 effective June 30, 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, projects and completion have defined Dr. Bruno's presidency since
8 being appointed by the UL System as the eighth president of the university effective
9 November 8, 2010; and

10 WHEREAS, as president, he immediately reached out to the community by creating
11 the Business & Community Advisory Committee, a group that analyzes the workforce needs
12 of the region; Dr. Bruno knew of the economic and educational needs of the area from
13 2002-2005, as he served as ULM Associate Vice President for Business Affairs and then
14 Vice President for Business Affairs; he departed ULM for the UL System office in Baton
15 Rouge, where he was Vice President for Business and Finance for over five years before he
16 was appointed president; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Bruno returned to ULM with a vision of taking the university
18 beyond the geographic confines of Northeast Louisiana to the national stage as an institution

1 with dynamic research and offering more programs in the health sciences, and as an
2 institution of higher education providing multiple degree programs in high-paying,
3 high-demand fields - the STEM majors of science, technology, engineering, and
4 mathematics; and

5 WHEREAS, he consolidated the university into four colleges in 2016 - the College
6 of Arts, Education and Sciences, College of Business and Social Sciences, College of Health
7 Sciences, and College of Pharmacy which centralized schools, programs, and departments
8 under deans dedicated to enhancing those fields within each college; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2016, ULM was elevated from a regional to a national university by
10 receiving the Carnegie R3 Doctoral University classification and recognition by *U.S. News*
11 *& World Report* as a Best National University, both for the first time in its then
12 eighty-five-year history; and

13 WHEREAS, among Dr. Bruno's most significant of many accomplishments at ULM
14 was securing the partnership with the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine to build
15 a medical school on the ULM campus; and

16 WHEREAS, during Dr. Bruno's administration, facilities were added, expanded, and
17 renovated, including \$5 million renovations to Brown Stadium and Groseclose Track,
18 construction of the \$7 million Bayou Pointe Student Event Center, installation of a \$3
19 million Doppler radar weather system, renovation of the former president's home, University
20 House - a facility for campus guests, construction of the \$800,000 Wally Jones Golf
21 Complex, renovation of Sandel Hall, resulting in the first one-stop student center/academic
22 building in Louisiana, and Sugar and Caldwell halls are scheduled for renovation beginning
23 in 2021 to house the new Doctor of Physical Therapy School and health sciences classrooms
24 and lab; and

25 WHEREAS, the ULM Foundation's SOAR Campaign started in 2013 with a goal of
26 \$55.4 million; however, when the campaign closed at the end of FY 2018, that goal was
27 exceeded with a total of more than \$56 million - the first capital campaign in ULM's history;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, campus beautification, enhanced technology in the classroom, and
30 access for students, plus expanded campus housing have been continuous under Dr. Bruno;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Bruno served on the boards of numerous civic, government, and
3 private organizations including the West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce
4 Board of Directors, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the St.
5 Francis Medical Center Board of Directors where he continues to serve; he is also a member
6 of the Ouachita Business Alliance, and the Workforce Development Board Area 81; and

7 WHEREAS, he was honored for his outstanding service in February 2020 with the
8 Monroe Chamber of Commerce's highest honor, the Rambin-Silverstein Memorial Civic
9 Award which recognizes a resident of Northeast Louisiana who has demonstrated
10 achievement, leadership, and service for the benefit of the greater community; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2020, President Bruno gracefully led ULM during the COVID-19
12 crisis, serving as a reminder of his commitment and dedication to both the university and the
13 northeast Louisiana community, and such commitment and dedication is most deserving of
14 recognition.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
16 does hereby commend University of Louisiana Monroe President Nick J. Bruno on the
17 occasion of his retirement, does hereby express genuine appreciation to Dr. Bruno for his
18 commitment and contributions to the advancement of the University of Louisiana Monroe
19 and of northeast Louisiana, and does hereby extend sincere best wishes for Dr. Bruno's
20 continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
22 President Nick J. Bruno.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

SR 25 Original

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Cathey

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