

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4669, by Representatives Buys, Lytton, Hansen, Morris, Van Werven, and Zeiger

1 WHEREAS, In June 2016, Cyndie Shepard is retiring from her
2 position as the first lady of Western Washington University and as
3 the executive director of Western's award-winning Compass 2 Campus
4 mentoring program; and

5 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard has excelled as the first lady of Western
6 Washington University in working with her husband, Western President
7 Bruce Shepard, to develop friendships and partnerships on campus and
8 in the community, state, and nation; and in creating opportunities
9 for people from all walks of life; and

10 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard has proven to be a true champion for
11 education in three states, particularly in raising aspirations for
12 students from traditionally underrepresented, diverse, and first
13 generation backgrounds to pursue higher education through mentoring
14 programs in Washington and Wisconsin; and

15 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard has taught at several universities and
16 colleges across the nation including the University of Wisconsin-
17 Green Bay, Murray State University, Eastern Oregon University, and
18 Blue Mountain Community College; and has extensive experience in K-12
19 education, special education, and administration; and

20 WHEREAS, The Western community and the people of Washington have
21 benefited from the contributions and leadership of Cyndie Shepard,
22 who has particularly distinguished herself for her creation,
23 development, and leadership of Western's Compass 2 Campus program, a

1 nationally recognized, award-winning mentoring initiative that places
2 Western students in local school districts to encourage students to
3 graduate from high school and pursue higher education; and

4 WHEREAS, The Compass 2 Campus program was transported to Central
5 Washington University last year, in recognition of its great success
6 at Western and in Whatcom and Skagit counties; and

7 WHEREAS, The Western Washington University Compass 2 Campus
8 Mentorship Initiative is a pilot program implemented by House Bill
9 No. 1986 which was signed by the governor on May 11, 2009; and

10 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard served as director and co-founder of the
11 Phuture Phoenix program at University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where
12 the program continues to be successful and has been transported to
13 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Silver Lake College; and

14 WHEREAS, Compass 2 Campus and the Phuture Phoenix programs have
15 proven to increase GPA and reduce truancy among elementary, middle,
16 and high school students; empower students to make good choices about
17 the future; increase students' leadership and commitment to giving
18 back to their communities; and empower more students to graduate from
19 high school and encourage them to consider some form of higher
20 education; and

21 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard presents on mentorship and student
22 engagement at numerous conferences and community events, teaches at
23 Western in the Woodring College of Education and in the dance
24 department, is past president of Western's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi,
25 is on the Woodring Diversity Committee, and is an advisory board
26 member for the GRADS Program in Bellingham Public Schools; and

27 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard's legacy and devotion to public education
28 will have lasting beneficial effects on the people of the state of
29 Washington, those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, and those
30 college students who served as mentors to those students in area
31 schools, for years to come;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
33 of Representatives recognize Cyndie Shepard for her service to
34 Western Washington University and for her dedication to K-12 and
35 higher education and to student access and success; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
37 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of

1 Representatives to Cyndie Shepard and the Board of Trustees of
2 Western Washington University.

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