

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 176

BY SENATOR BISHOP

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Dr. Victor Ukpolo on his leadership and service as Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Dr. Victor Ukpolo for his leadership and service as
3 Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Victor Ukpolo, who has served as Chancellor of Southern
5 University at New Orleans (SUNO) for ten years, will resign that position effective June 30,
6 2016; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Ukpolo, formerly the Southern University System's Vice President
8 for Academic and Student Affairs, previously served as Associate Vice President for
9 Academic Affairs at California State University in Los Angeles and Associate Vice
10 Chancellor for Academic Affairs/Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Academic Research
11 for the Tennessee Board of Regents, after starting his career as an Assistant Professor of
12 Economics at Austin Peay State University, where he also held an administrative post as
13 Executive Assistant to the President; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Ukpolo came to America from Nigeria forty-four years ago as a
15 young man with \$200 in his pocket and worked his way up from a dishwasher to become
16 chancellor; and

17 WHEREAS, after he steps down as chancellor, Dr. Ukpolo plans to return to the
18 classroom to teach at SUNO before eventually returning to Nigeria, as the patriarch of his

1 family, to give back to his homeland; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Ukpolo was appointed Chancellor on January 6, 2006, and led
3 SUNO during a critical time in the university's history, rebuilding the campus that was
4 submerged in flood waters after hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

5 WHEREAS, during his tenure, the university built its first-ever housing complex, an
6 Information Technology Center, a new College of Business & Public Administration
7 Building, and a Small Business Incubator on the newly developed Lake Campus; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Ukpolo also oversaw the renovations of the University Center, the
9 Leonard S. Washington Memorial Library and the first floor of the Bashful Administration
10 Building, and in addition, four new buildings are slated to be constructed: the Education
11 Building, the Natural Sciences Building, the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Building,
12 and the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work, with the university breaking ground on
13 the new Social Work building in November 2015; and

14 WHEREAS, SUNO experienced impressive student population growth under
15 Dr. Ukpolo's leadership, immediately after Hurricane Katrina, he launched an aggressive
16 marketing and reorganization campaign, which included the introduction of four innovative
17 online programs to attract displaced students; and

18 WHEREAS, despite projections that only 1,200 to 1,500 of the 3,600 students
19 enrolled before the storm would return, more than 2,100 students came back to continue their
20 education on the new Lake Campus in trailers supplied by the Federal Emergency
21 Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and

22 WHEREAS, with enrollment climbing faster than any other four-year institution in
23 Louisiana, SUNO not only moved back to its original location, known as the Park Campus,
24 in the winter of 2008, but is also experienced unprecedented growth; and

25 WHEREAS, looking toward future generations, Dr. Ukpolo established an innovative
26 dual enrollment program to allow qualified high school students to earn college credits at
27 the university and he also continues to support the Honoré Center for Undergraduate
28 Achievement, created to reverse the trend of fewer African American males graduating from
29 college, while increasing the number of male-certified classroom teachers in urban settings;
30 and

1 WHEREAS, programs such as these demonstrate Dr. Ukpolo's care, commitment and
2 concern for SUNO's students, many who, like him, are the first in their families to attend.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
4 does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Victor Ukpolo for his leadership and service as
5 Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans; does hereby record for posterity his
6 accomplishments; and does hereby extend best wishes on his future endeavors.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
8 Dr. Victor Ukpolo.

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

DIGEST

SR 176 Original 2016 Regular Session Bishop

Commends Dr. Victor Ukpolo for his leadership and service as Chancellor of Southern
University at New Orleans.