

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 142

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and celebrate Dr. William F. Tate IV for his historic appointment and distinguished service as president of Louisiana State University, and to recognize his visionary leadership, academic excellence, and unwavering commitment to advancing higher education in the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Dr. William F. Tate IV was appointed the 28th president of Louisiana State University on May 6, 2021, becoming the first African American to lead LSU in its 162-year history and the first to serve as president of any university in the Southeastern Conference; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tate serves as both the chief executive and academic officer of the LSU system and the flagship campus in Baton Rouge, providing strategic leadership and direction for an extensive statewide network that includes campuses in Alexandria, Eunice, and Shreveport, the Health Sciences Centers in New Orleans and Shreveport, the LSU Agricultural Center, and the Pennington Biomedical Research Center; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Tate's leadership, LSU has experienced significant growth and achievement, a record-setting student enrollment across the state, including an increased proportion of out-of-state students, improved graduation rates, and a strengthened position as a leading driver of academic and economic development in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tate has overseen a remarkable increase in LSU's research enterprise, with more than \$540 million in research expenditures in the last academic year alone, nearly \$200 million more than in 2020, and helped secure the largest federal grant in LSU's history - a potential \$160 million award from the National Science Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tate introduced the Pentagon Priority areas: agriculture, biomedical, coast, energy, and defense/cybersecurity; establishing a strategic research agenda that aligns LSU's strengths with national and state priorities; and

WHEREAS, he championed LSU's aspiration to become a Top 50 research university and fueled its momentum toward national prominence through cutting-edge discoveries and impactful initiatives; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Tate's tenure, he was able to accomplish historic achievements, including securing the largest private gift in LSU history, \$245 million for health initiatives, and garnering increased state support across key research sectors; and

WHEREAS, during his time, LSU has also celebrated major athletic triumphs, including national championships in baseball, women's basketball, and gymnastics, further enhancing the university's national profile and school spirit; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tate's presidency has not been without challenges, as he led LSU through periods of political and institutional transition, including the aftermath of a high-profile Title IX investigation, shifts in state leadership, and broader national debates about higher education, while maintaining a steadfast commitment to academic freedom and student opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tate continues to embody the values of scholarship, integrity, and public service, combining intellectual rigor with humility and accessibility, always keeping students' welfare and educational access at the forefront of his presidency; and

WHEREAS, his dedication, vision, and tireless efforts have left a lasting impact on the LSU community and has earned him the admiration of students, faculty, staff, and alumni alike; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2025, Dr. Tate announced he has accepted the position of President at Rutgers University and will conclude his service at LSU on June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, although his departure is met with sincere regret, the state of Louisiana expresses deep gratitude for his four years of dedication and outstanding leadership and wishes him continued success in his future endeavors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and acknowledge Dr. William F. Tate IV for his extraordinary accomplishments, courageous leadership, and steadfast dedication to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the entire Louisiana State University community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. William F. Tate IV.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE