

Senate Concurrent Resolution 12

Sponsored by Senator BURDICK, Representative REYNOLDS (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Congratulates Portland State University on its 75th anniversary.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas after World War II, veterans returning home needed access to higher education and
3 opportunity; and

4 Whereas one of those veterans was Stephen Epler, who in 1946 founded the Vanport Extension
5 Center, which later became informally known as Vanport College; and

6 Whereas Epler secured a location, facilities, faculty and staff in only three months in the city
7 of Vanport, a wartime housing project for shipyard workers that was located between Portland,
8 Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington, on reclaimed lowlands along the Columbia River; and

9 Whereas Vanport was the home of the largest Black community in Oregon at that time; and

10 Whereas Vanport flooded and was destroyed on May 30, 1948, when a hole in a dike turned into
11 a surge of water; and

12 Whereas it was students and faculty from Vanport College who first warned the community of
13 the flood; and

14 Whereas Vanport College refused to close after the flood and instead relocated to Grant High
15 School in Portland for the summer of 1948, before moving to a hastily converted building in the
16 Oregon Shipyard that became known affectionately as "Oregon Ship"; and

17 Whereas this spirit of resilience led to Vanport College being dubbed "the college that wouldn't
18 die" in the *Christian Science Monitor* by student Lois Hennessy, a motto which soon appeared on the
19 masthead of the student newspaper, the *Vanguard*; and

20 Whereas in 1952, Vanport College was renamed the Portland State Extension Center, and the
21 following year it moved to the old Lincoln High School building, which had been purchased by order
22 of Governor Douglas McKay to give the college a permanent home in the heart of downtown
23 Portland; and

24 Whereas many students and community members campaigned for the establishment of a perma-
25 nent four-year college in Portland, which at that time was the largest metropolitan area in the
26 United States without a public four-year college; and

27 Whereas on February 14, 1955, Governor Paul Patterson signed the legislation that made
28 Portland State College a four-year institution; and

29 Whereas Portland State College officially became Portland State University (PSU) in 1969; and

30 Whereas Portland State University remains the only public-urban university in the State of
31 Oregon that is located in a large city, and it has grown into Oregon's most diverse urban public
32 research university, with more than 26,000 students and more than 200 degree programs that serve

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 more low-income, first-generation, transfer and diverse students than any other university in Oregon;
2 and

3 Whereas Portland State University’s motto is embraced by its students and community to “Let
4 Knowledge Serve the City” and to let knowledge serve the State of Oregon; and

5 Whereas in 2021, Portland State University will celebrate 75 years of service to the Portland
6 community, offering the opportunity to recognize their achievements, tell true and complicated sto-
7 ries, reflect on challenges and renew its commitment to putting students first; and

8 Whereas Portland State University’s 75th year comes during a renewed anti-racist movement,
9 making it critically important to keep PSU’s past, present and future community embedded in social
10 justice and service; and

11 Whereas Portland State University’s milestone comes at a turbulent social and political time,
12 amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

13 Whereas Portland State University’s community works to embolden each and every person,
14 helping them to create an impact in their own lives and the lives of those around them, empowering
15 people to collectively aim higher, rally around each other and stride into a more meaningful future
16 for everyone; and

17 Whereas Portland State University started from nothing to become a world-class research uni-
18 versity and a recognized leader in making social mobility a reality in Oregon; and

19 Whereas Portland State University officially recognizes its 75th anniversary on February 14,
20 2021; now, therefore,

21 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

22 That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, commemorate the 75th anniver-
23 sary of Portland State University and we congratulate PSU, more than 190,000 PSU alumni and all
24 Oregonians on this significant public milestone of service, leadership and contributions to the State
25 of Oregon. Go Viks!

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