

House Concurrent Resolution 1

Sponsored by Representative MARSH, Senator GOLDEN, Representatives WALLAN, GOODWIN, HUDSON, MORGAN, SCHARF, WRIGHT; Representative SMITH DB (Pre-session 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**.

Commends Southern Oregon University on its 150th anniversary and for being an inclusive, sustainable university for the future that guides all learners to develop knowledge, capacities and audacity to innovate boldly and create lives of purpose.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Southern Oregon University (SOU) can trace its beginning to 1869, when local citizens
3 formed the Rogue River Valley Educational Society with the goal of building an academy of higher
4 learning in Ashland, Oregon; and

5 Whereas in 1872, the first building was completed, and the Ashland Academy officially opened
6 and welcomed its first students; and

7 Whereas in 1882, the Legislative Assembly authorized creation of a state normal school in
8 Ashland for teacher training, and the school was renamed Ashland State Normal School; and

9 Whereas in 1895, the school was renamed Southern Oregon State Normal School and was lo-
10 cated about a mile south of the present campus; and

11 Whereas in 1925, the City of Ashland donated 24 acres for a new campus, the present site of
12 SOU; and

13 Whereas the institution has grown and evolved as a resilient organization with the support of
14 the public over the course of 150 years, including attaining university status in 1997 with an official
15 name change to Southern Oregon University; and

16 Whereas SOU has prepared future generations of teachers since 1882 and was named the top
17 college for K-12 education degree programs in 2020 by schools.com, based on the United States De-
18 partment of Education's National Center for Education Statistics and the Integrated Postsecondary
19 Education Data System; and

20 Whereas SOU's School of Business was named best in the Northwest and was ranked 10th in
21 the United States for MBA programs in nonprofit management by intelligent.com, based on analysis
22 of regional accreditation statistics in 2019; and

23 Whereas SOU advances and encourages the arts within the institution and in the surrounding
24 community, including Professor Angus Bowmer's vision that created the world-renowned Oregon
25 Shakespeare Festival in 1935; and

26 Whereas SOU has fostered creativity education by hosting the annual international Creativity
27 Conference since 2018; and

28 Whereas SOU proudly implements character-driven athletics programs as a foundation for
29 sportsmanship and athletic accomplishments, and SOU has been recognized twice with the Cascade
30 Collegiate Conference Presidents' Cup for Academic Excellence, was first in the fall 2018

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 LEARFIELD Directors' Cup rankings from the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Ath-
2 letics and has achieved multiple conference and national championships; and

3 Whereas SOU has been lauded as one of the most environmentally responsible higher education
4 institutions in the United States and Canada, including recognition as a "Tree Campus USA," as the
5 nation's first "Bee Campus USA" and as the nation's top pollinator-friendly college in the Sierra
6 Club's "Cool Schools" rankings; and

7 Whereas SOU has been included in the top 20 list of green colleges and universities by the
8 United States Environmental Protection Agency since 2008 and received the Excellence and Inno-
9 vation Award for Sustainability and Sustainable Development from the American Association of
10 State Colleges and Universities; and

11 Whereas SOU achieved the "Gold" level for sustainability from the Association for the Ad-
12 vancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and received a Climate Leadership Award at the
13 Presidential Climate Leadership Summit of the nonprofit organization Second Nature; and

14 Whereas SOU strives to create an inclusive campus community, resulting in it being named one
15 of the nation's "Best of the Best" LGBTQIA+ campuses for 10 consecutive years by Campus Pride;
16 and

17 Whereas for 150 years, dedicated faculty and staff have led the way at SOU, continually re-
18 newing the university's commitment to putting students first by building a community of learners
19 who impact their own lives and the lives of those around them; and

20 Whereas graduates of SOU have become leaders in business, government, academia, the military,
21 science, medicine, education, the arts and every other field of human endeavor; and

22 Whereas the SOU Board of Trustees received the John W. Nason Award for Board Leadership
23 in 2019-2020; and

24 Whereas Southern Oregon University has publicly acknowledged that these successes exist
25 within the ancestral homelands of the Shasta, Takelma and Latgawa people; now, therefore,

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

27 That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, commemorate the 150th anni-
28 versary of Southern Oregon University and congratulate SOU, tens of thousands of SOU alumni and
29 all Oregonians on this significant public milestone of service, leadership and contributions to the
30 State of Oregon.

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