

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

BY SENATOR NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. E. Joseph Savoie for his exemplary service and leadership as Louisiana's Commissioner of Higher Education and to extend sincere congratulations upon his selection to serve as president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

WHEREAS, Dr. E. Joseph Savoie has served with distinction as Commissioner of Higher Education since his appointment in 1996, promoting unprecedented cooperation and collaboration among Louisiana's colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Savoie's vision, ability, energy, and devotion to educational excellence was the driving force behind numerous major reforms in the state's postsecondary educational system, not the least of which is the restructuring of the higher education governance, the creation of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, reform of teacher education programs, development of a comprehensive Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education, full funding for the higher education formula, and the creation of the state's first needs-based financial aid program; and

WHEREAS, after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Dr. Savoie exhibited calm, strong, and innovative leadership as he decisively and effectively addressed the immediate needs of thousands of students, faculty, and staff displaced from Louisiana's colleges and universities, and then methodically began the process of ensuring that our higher educational system would emerge from the post-storm crisis and chaos viable, vibrant, and focused; and

WHEREAS, underlying every policy and program he proposed or supported was a clear understanding of the undeniable link between the quality of our educational system and the state's economic and social vitality; and

WHEREAS, although Dr. Savoie earned his doctoral degree from Columbia University Teacher's College in New York, he is a two-time alumnus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and held a variety of administrative and faculty positions at his home university over the course of his professional career; and

WHEREAS, it is most certain that his return home to serve as president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is highly welcomed and anticipated within the university and the entire Acadiana community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby most highly commend Dr. E. Joseph Savoie for his exemplary service and leadership as Louisiana's Commissioner of Higher Education and extends sincere congratulations upon his selection to serve as president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. E. Joseph Savoie.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES