

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1817

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Baker University upon its sesquicentennial.

WHEREAS, On February 12, 1858, the governor of the Kansas Territory signed the Baker University charter, which had been approved by the legislature, making it the first university and now the oldest four year college in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Baker University, born in the crucible of the pre-Civil War skirmishes that lead to the moniker “Bleeding Kansas”, was founded by a group of Methodists hoping to bring education to the fledgling Kansas-Nebraska Territory, and was named for Osmon C. Baker, the Kansas- Nebraska bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, Since Baker’s first president, Werter Renick Davis, opened the school’s doors on November 12, 1858 in the flagship structure now known as the Old Castle, Baker University has honored its goal of delivering excellence in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with its mission to serve both recent high school graduates and the life-long learning needs of adults, Baker University is comprised of four schools: The College of Arts and Sciences, at the main campus in Baldwin City, has its own educational goals and offers the wide selection in courses of study usually associated with a superior undergraduate liberal arts education; the School of Professional and Graduate Studies, with its educational goals directed to the needs of adult students, offers educational programs in Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka and other locations in Kansas and Missouri; the School of Education offers undergraduate degrees at the Baldwin City campus, as well as graduate programs and the university’s first doctoral program at the graduate campuses; and the School of Nursing, located at Stormont-Vail HealthCare in Topeka, prepares recent high school graduates and adult students for the nursing profession; and

WHEREAS, What began as an effort to civilize the rough prairie existence through education, culture and faith is now a comprehensive university of nearly 4,000 students across six campuses and at other locations in Kansas and Missouri, including 942 undergraduate students at the College of Arts and Sciences, 155 students at the School of Nursing and 2,862 students enrolled in graduate programs at the School of Professional and Graduate Studies and the School of Education; and

WHEREAS, Baker University continues to build on the tradition of academic excellence with accomplished faculty, bright and motivated students and a visionary commitment to innovation. Together, these elements create an interactive learning environment that promotes participation and sparks ideas; and

WHEREAS, Baker University’s long history of distinguished alumni includes 18,864 living alumni, 10,198 of whom live in Kansas, 872 graduates from the nursing program, four Rhodes Scholars, a Pulitzer Prize winner and several Kansas Teacher of the Year award recipients; and

WHEREAS, Baker University remains a proud promoter of an integral part of life in Baldwin City, and in honor of the university’s sesquicentennial, Baker students have banded together to raise \$60,000 to build a Habitat for Humanity House, which will commemorate the university’s long history of community service: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we salute Baker University, its founders and those who have seen it through 150 years of rich and sometimes dramatic history, and that we congratulate and commend Baker University for providing students with an excellent education through innovation and exceptional instruction; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Pine for presentation to Baker University President Pat Long.

Senate Resolution No. 1817 was sponsored by Senator Roger Pine.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*