

## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6074

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Fort Hays State University President Dr. Edward H. Hammond on his retirement.

WHEREAS, Fort Hays State University is a forward-thinking liberal and applied arts university, and is recognized internationally for offering more than 60 degrees in a technology-rich environment. Fort Hays State University aggressively seeks innovative solutions to meet the educational needs of Kansans and enhance the economic future of the state; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edward H. Hammond, the eighth president of Fort Hays State University, was born in McAllen, Texas, and raised in the Kansas City, Kansas area; and

WHEREAS, President Hammond received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Emporia State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri, Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Prior to accepting the presidency at FHSU in 1987, he held administrative positions at the universities of Louisville, Seton Hall, Southern Illinois, Purdue and Missouri. Now in his 28th year, he is the longest-serving president in the Kansas Board of Regents system and the longest-serving president in the 112-year history of FHSU; and

WHEREAS, President Hammond has published widely and is recognized as a futurist. He is in demand nationally as a speaker and educational consultant in the areas of educational business planning, risk management, and staff and institutional liability. In recent years, due to FHSU's success in China, he has also been sought as a consultant and speaker concerning the world's most populous nation. Through partnerships with universities there, FHSU serves about 3,400 students with more than 50 faculty and has produced more than 7,000 FHSU graduates to date. FHSU is the largest provider of higher education in China that is not a Chinese university; and

WHEREAS, President Hammond has been extremely active at FHSU, building an institution that delivers education by way of three modalities: On campus, at a distance through the Virtual College and in China. His first priority after assuming the presidency was to develop a unique high-tech and high-touch learning environment with a value-added focus. Other value-added initiatives include the internationalization of the curriculum, development of a Leadership Studies Program and development of a Four Year Guaranteed Degree program. The university's Virtual College now serves more than 5,000 students by means of internet classes and other mediated forms of instruction. The virtual students reside in Kansas, nearly every state and in several other nations; and

WHEREAS, President Hammond has been instrumental in: Increasing enrollment from 4,500 to 13,500, despite a decreasing population in the university's primary service area; establishing Student Recognition Programs to award scholarships to academically outstanding high school seniors in Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska; establishing private scholarships for African-American, Hispanic and Asian-American students; developing a mobile learning and living environment that includes wireless connectivity throughout the FHSU campus; launching capital campaigns that have raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the renovation and construction of campus buildings; quadrupling the number of scholarships awarded yearly; and establishing the national FHSU Alumni Club system; and

WHEREAS, President Hammond is passionate about alcohol awareness on college campuses. He served as chair of the Board of Trustees for Boost Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students, the chair for the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week and as a board member for the Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Issues. He has been an active member of his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, including serving as president of the foundation board of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He is also a past National President of the fraternity and served as a member of the Executive Committee of the North American Interfraternity Conference; and

WHEREAS, President Hammond has received numerous awards over his career, including: The Hays Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for 1994; the Chief Executive Leader Award in 2008 from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education; the Chinese Jade Award in 2009 from Sias International University in Xinzheng, China; the Region IV-West Presidential Excellence Award in Fall 2011 from the National Association of Student Personnel Administration (NASPA); the NASPA President's Award in January 2013; and the Pillar of the Profession Award in 2013 from NASPA. Additionally, he was inducted into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame in 1997; and

WHEREAS, President Hammond and his wife Mary have three children and seven grandchildren, including a daughter, Kelly Williams, her husband, Chris, and their children Lily and Jack; a daughter, Julie Mohajir, her husband, Terry, and their children Molly, Maria and Marco; and a son, Lance Hammond, his wife, Shannon, and their children, Trent and Grayce; and

WHEREAS, After 28 years of serving Fort Hays State University, President Hammond is now retiring: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we honor President Hammond for his many years of service to Fort Hays State University. We thank him for being a leader in higher education for the state of Kansas and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

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

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*