STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1018

By: Wells, Benson, Cox, Ross and Toure

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution extending congratulations of the Oklahoma Legislature to Langston University on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Langston University enjoys a unique status in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education as the only historically black institution; and

WHEREAS, Langston University was founded as a land grant college by the Morrill Act of 1890, and established on March 12, 1897, as the Colored Agricultural and Normal University by Oklahoma Territorial House Bill No. 151; and

WHEREAS, Langston University was established in the small, black pioneer community of Langston near Guthrie, which was the capital of Oklahoma Territory at the time, and these settlers, determined to provide higher education to their children, raised and donated funds to purchase forty acres of land on which the school was then built; and

WHEREAS, the first President of Langston University was Dr. Inman E. Page, the son of a former slave who had purchased freedom for himself and his family; and

WHEREAS, despite meager funding from the state, Langston University was able to develop due to Section 13 funding which was dedicated to the school along with funding from the Morrill Act; and

WHEREAS, the name of the institution became Langston University in 1941, to honor John Mercer Langston, a black Virginia educator prominent in public affairs; and

WHEREAS, in 1948 Langston University was accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; and

WHEREAS, until passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1954, black Oklahomans could only attend college in Oklahoma at Langston University, and those seeking graduate education were forced to travel out of state, and in the years following this act many nonblack students began enrolling at Langston University; and

WHEREAS, the decades since the Civil Rights Act have witnessed much building and restructuring at Langston University, including implementation of an urban mission in 1978 making Langston University the only institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education with both a land grant and urban mission; and

WHEREAS, Langston University today enjoys a healthy endowment program and record-breaking enrollments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Oklahoma Legislature wishes to extend congratulations to the administration, faculty and support personnel, students and alumni of Langston University on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary, and wishes it a successful future into the next millennium.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Chancellor of Higher Education, the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education, the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges Board of Regents, and the President of Langston University.

46-1-7104 DT