

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SENATE

4 RESOLUTION 27

By: Burrage

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution congratulating Rogers State University
8 on its Centennial; commending its growth; and
9 directing distribution.

10 WHEREAS, Rogers State University (RSU) was founded in 1909 –
11 just two years after Oklahoma was granted statehood. The
12 institution was officially established as Eastern University
13 Preparatory School in Claremore, Oklahoma, by the Oklahoma State
14 Legislature during its second session. The mission of the school
15 was to prepare the sons and daughters of Native Americans, farmers,
16 and ranchers for entry into the colleges and universities of
17 Oklahoma; and

18 WHEREAS, during the construction of its first building,
19 Preparatory Hall, from 1909 to 1911, classes were held in the old
20 Claremont Building in downtown Claremore, Oklahoma. Five students
21 graduated at the end of the institution's first academic year.
22 During its second academic year (1910-1911), 375 students were
23 enrolled. The institution continued to grow rapidly, adding a
24 library in 1914 and receiving accreditation as a secondary school by

1 the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in
2 1916. Preparatory Hall housed the entire operation of the
3 institution until it was closed in 1917; and

4 WHEREAS, two years later, the institution was resurrected as the
5 Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA) in response to the needs of area
6 residents and the United States Armed Forces. By 1923, the Oklahoma
7 Military Academy offered secondary education and two years of
8 college to young men from Oklahoma and across the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Military Academy has an extensive register
10 of graduates who became great leaders, both in military and civilian
11 life. More than 2,500 graduates served in the Armed Forces of the
12 United States during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam
13 War. More than 100 graduates gave their lives in service to their
14 country. Oklahoma Military Academy quickly gained recognition as
15 one of the top military schools in the United States, and was often
16 referred to as the "West Point of the Southwest"; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1971, in response to the growing educational needs
18 of a rapidly developing economy in the Claremore area, the Oklahoma
19 State Legislature replaced the Oklahoma Military Academy with the
20 new Claremore Junior College. The mission of the institution was
21 expanded to provide a variety of high-quality, two-year associate
22 degree programs for area residents; and

23 WHEREAS, Claremore Junior College quickly grew from 477 students
24 in 1971 to more than 3,000 in 1982, when the institution was renamed

1 Rogers State College to better represent the areas it served –
2 Rogers County and the surrounding communities; and

3 WHEREAS, as Rogers State College, the institution prospered,
4 adding a variety of academic programs, including the state's only
5 full-power public television station on a college campus. The
6 institution became a national pioneer in distance education,
7 offering telecourses and independent study options for students; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1996, the Oklahoma State Legislature approved the
9 merger of Rogers State College and the University Center at Tulsa
10 (UCAT), a consortium of four Oklahoma universities – the University
11 of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Northeastern State
12 University, and Langston University. The new institution was named
13 Rogers University and continued operation for two years with
14 branches in Claremore and Tulsa; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1998, the Oklahoma State Legislature separated the
16 institutions, creating a branch of Oklahoma State University in
17 Tulsa, and Rogers State University (RSU), a new regional university
18 with a main campus in Claremore, Oklahoma; and

19 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Legislature granted permission for
20 Rogers State University to seek accreditation for its own four-year
21 bachelor degrees, while continuing to offer associate degrees; and

22 WHEREAS, in August 2000, the Higher Learning Commission of the
23 North Central Association of Colleges and Schools formally granted
24 Rogers State University accreditation as a four-year university; and

1 WHEREAS, since Rogers State University was accredited as a four-
2 year university in 2000, enrollment (full-time equivalency-FTE) has
3 increased by nearly 70 percent, earning RSU the title of one of
4 Oklahoma's fastest-growing universities; and

5 WHEREAS, today, Rogers State University is a dynamic,
6 progressive university with nearly 4,000 students, widely recognized
7 for its high-quality academic programs, distance learning options,
8 and high-technology learning environment. The university enjoys
9 status as the only public four-year, residential university in the
10 Tulsa metropolitan area.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
12 OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

13 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate congratulates Rogers State
14 University upon the occasion of its Centennial.

15 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends Rogers State University
16 for its progress and growth during the past 100 years and encourages
17 RSU to continue on the path of steady advancement and stable
18 development during its next 100 years.

19 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Rogers State
20 University President Larry Rice.

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