

2021 SPECIAL SESSION II

INTRODUCED

21300318D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 829

Offered August 4, 2021

Commending Brian O. Hemphill.

Patron—Hurst

WHEREAS, Brian O. Hemphill served the Southwest Virginia community for five years as president of Radford University, helping the institution maintain traditions of excellence in academics and community leadership; and

WHEREAS, before joining Radford University in 2016, Brian Hemphill served as president of West Virginia State University for four years, during which time he oversaw a 20 percent growth in enrollment and significant increases in the university's endowment and philanthropic giving; and

WHEREAS, as president of Radford University, Brian Hemphill presided over an increase in overall enrollment, with a peak of nearly 12,000 students in 2019, and helped raise the Radford University Foundation's endowments and investments by more than 42 percent; and

WHEREAS, Brian Hemphill secured two of the largest donations in school history, an \$8 million gift to name the Davis College of Business and Economics and a \$5 million gift to name the Artis College of Science and Technology, that directly contributed to increased scholarship support for students; and

WHEREAS, Brian Hemphill succeeded in gaining approval for several major capital projects at Radford University, including renovations to residence halls and academic facilities and a university hotel and conference center, among many other projects; and

WHEREAS, in June 2021, Radford University rededicated the College of Humanities and Behavioral Science Building as Hemphill Hall in honor of Brian Hemphill's legacy of contributions to the university; and

WHEREAS, after completing his tenure at Radford University, Brian Hemphill joined Old Dominion University as the institution's first African American president; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Brian O. Hemphill be commended for his outstanding service as president of Radford University; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Brian O. Hemphill as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his work to advance the field of higher education in the Commonwealth.

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