

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 120 Session of
1993

INTRODUCED BY BATTISTO, TIGUE, NYCE, COY AND SCHULER,
JUNE 7, 1993

ADOPTED, JUNE 7, 1993

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the occasion of the centennial celebration of East
2 Stroudsburg University.

3 WHEREAS, In 1891, Reverend Chandler A. Oakes, pastor of the
4 East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, formed a bond with Mr.
5 Seely Rosenkrans, a local businessman, and the two community
6 leaders began working toward the establishment of a State Normal
7 School to be located in East Stroudsburg. After a great amount
8 of effort, the two leaders received the backing of 110 persons
9 in the community and were able to raise enough money to invest
10 in a stock company formed to found the college. In addition to
11 the money invested by local businessmen, a tract of 11 acres of
12 land for the campus was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Knapp.
13 This land became the original campus for East Stroudsburg
14 University; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1892 a building for the Normal School was begun
16 and, on March 22 of the following year, the Commonwealth
17 accepted and approved the construction of the original Stroud

1 Hall at a cost of \$135,000. This original building was the only
2 one on campus for three years and included a training school, a
3 chapel or assembly room, several classrooms, a library, student
4 quarters and faculty quarters. It was demolished in 1967 to make
5 way for a newer and more modern classroom facility. Other early
6 buildings of the university were Wayne Gymnasium, Oakes Hall
7 (1902) and Shawnee Lodge (1908), none of which are currently
8 standing; and

9 WHEREAS, On May 26, 1893, George B. Bible, former principal
10 of the Indiana State Normal School, was selected to serve as
11 principal. His first job was to review the numerous applications
12 for faculty positions at the institution, and a month later the
13 faculty was chosen. Among the faculty was Elwood L. Kemp, then
14 principal of Palitinate College of Myerstown, who later was to
15 succeed Bible as principal of the Normal School; and

16 WHEREAS, The Normal School first opened its doors on
17 September 4, 1893, with a total of 320 students and 15 faculty.
18 Students viewed the curriculum as being largely academic since
19 the majority had come from school districts where no advanced
20 courses of study were offered. The curriculum consisted mainly
21 of psychology, history of education, methods of teaching, school
22 management, ancient, medieval and modern history, literature,
23 plane and solid geometry, physics and botany. Courses of study
24 offered were a two-year elementary and science program and a
25 one-year postgraduate program. The first graduating class from
26 the Normal School in 1894 consisted of 74 persons; and

27 WHEREAS, Professor E. L. Kemp was elected as the second
28 principal of the Normal School on July 3, 1902. During his
29 tenure of 18 years, sports began to play a very important role
30 as is indicated by the record of 1904 when the basketball team

1 became State champion; and

2 WHEREAS, In January of 1909 the college faced a crisis when
3 State aid allowances were stopped because the funds set aside by
4 the Commonwealth for this purpose were exhausted. The
5 curtailment of funds meant that students would have to pay
6 tuition for the first time in the school's history. The initial
7 tuition levied was set at \$1.50 per week; even this small charge
8 was too much for a few students who left the campus. Later in
9 the year, a \$75,000 appropriation bill was passed by the General
10 Assembly to cover the deficiency in funding; and

11 WHEREAS, For 27 years the college was governed by a board of
12 trustees which equally represented the stockholders and the
13 Commonwealth. Like other normal schools similarly established,
14 East Stroudsburg was transferred to Commonwealth control in June
15 of 1920 when the title was removed from private management. At
16 this time the name was changed to East Stroudsburg State Normal
17 School. A total of \$4,672 was returned to the original
18 stockholders who had never received dividends on their original
19 investment. At that time, the school was valued at \$300,000, and
20 the Commonwealth approved an additional \$600,000 for
21 improvements; and

22 WHEREAS, The college was given the status of a teachers'
23 college on June 4, 1926. On June 6, 1927, the name was
24 officially changed to the State Teachers College of East
25 Stroudsburg, and the State Council of Education granted the
26 college the right to confer the Bachelor of Science in Education
27 and the Bachelor of Science in Health Education degrees; and

28 WHEREAS, In 1950, the college received its first Middle
29 States Association accreditation. This accreditation was most
30 recently reaffirmed in 1987; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1960, the name of the college was changed to East
2 Stroudsburg State College, and on March 21, 1962, the State
3 Council of Education granted the college the right to confer
4 three graduate degrees, including the Master of Education in
5 Health and Physical Education, the Master of Education in
6 Biological Science and the Master of Education in General
7 Science. A Liberal Arts program leading to the Bachelor of Arts
8 degree in the humanities, the natural sciences and the social
9 sciences was initiated in September 1963. The Master of
10 Education degrees in history, political science, elementary
11 education and reading were added. In the summer of 1969 the
12 first Master of Arts degrees in history and political science
13 were approved. During this era of rapid growth (from 1,130
14 students in 1958 to 2,630 students in 1968), many new academic
15 facilities and residence halls were built; and

16 WHEREAS, On November 12, 1982, the Governor signed S.B. 506
17 establishing the State System of Higher Education. East
18 Stroudsburg State College was designated East Stroudsburg
19 University of Pennsylvania, effective July 1, 1983; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1986, Dr. James E. Gilbert, previously Vice
21 President for Academic Affairs at Pittsburg State University in
22 Pittsburg, Kansas, became President of East Stroudsburg
23 University, succeeding Dr. Dennis Bell; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
25 occasion of the centennial celebration of East Stroudsburg
26 University and that all members of the House of Representatives
27 join in extending sincere and enthusiastic congratulations to
28 the administration, faculty and students of the university upon
29 this historic occasion; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be immediately

- 1 transmitted to the President and Council of Trustees of East
- 2 Stroudsburg University.