
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 597 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY PARKER, LAWRENCE, BARRAR, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE,
CLYMER, DIGIROLAMO, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GROVE, KORTZ, MAHONEY,
MANN, MILLARD, MYERS, PRESTON, STABACK, THOMAS, VULAKOVICH,
WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 5, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH
5, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Dr. Robert R. Jennings as the 13th
2 president of Lincoln University and his long-standing
3 commitment to higher education.

4 WHEREAS, Founded in 1854, Lincoln University is a nationally
5 recognized institution of higher education that provides a
6 liberal arts and sciences-based undergraduate core curriculum
7 and selected graduate programs to meet the needs of students
8 living in a highly technological and global society; and

9 WHEREAS, On November 19, 2011, the Lincoln University Board
10 of Trustees selected Dr. Robert R. Jennings as the 13th
11 president of Lincoln University, succeeding the tenure of Dr.
12 Ivory V. Nelson; and

13 WHEREAS, On January 2, 2012, Dr. Robert R. Jennings
14 officially began his tenure as President of Lincoln University,
15 bringing his expertise in critical leadership initiatives, such
16 as increasing enrollment and overseeing the development of
17 academic review, to the university; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Jennings received his bachelor of arts degree in
2 sociology from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and
3 received his master of arts degree in education
4 psychology/elementary education and a doctoral degree in higher
5 education administration and policy studies from Atlanta
6 University; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Jennings also holds masters certification in
8 adult basic education from the University of Georgia and masters
9 certification in curriculum and instruction and gifted education
10 from Georgia State University; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Jennings' education also extends internationally
12 where he was a Charles Merrill Summer Fellow to the University
13 of Ghana in Accra, West Africa, an Oxford Roundtable Scholar in
14 Oxford, England, and a Fulbright Fellow in Recife, Brazil; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to his role as president of Lincoln
16 University, Dr. Jennings is a dissertation advisor for
17 educational and public administration majors at the Union
18 Graduate School in Cincinnati, Ohio; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Jennings' career in higher education includes
20 serving as the 10th president of Alabama A&M University, as well
21 as serving in various executive-level positions at Wake Forest
22 University, North Carolina A&T State University, Albany State
23 University, Norfolk State University and Atlanta University; and

24 WHEREAS, As president of Alabama A&M University, Dr. Jennings
25 raised \$4 million for a scholarship endowment program and
26 secured the largest legislative increase in the school's 132-
27 year history, acquired the university's first AA Bond rating,
28 and secured \$15 million for the construction of the university's
29 Wellness Center; and

30 WHEREAS, Before coming to Lincoln University, Dr. Jennings

1 served as an administrator for Gems, Inc., in Union City,
2 Georgia, which operates two agencies, a licensed learning
3 academy operating in two states which serves children six weeks
4 to 12 years of age and personal care homes serving adults
5 including seniors with special needs; and

6 WHEREAS, As an administrator for Gems, Inc., Dr. Jennings
7 managed day-to-day operations of both agencies, including staff
8 development training, marketing and quality control, as well as
9 overseeing a team of 20 employees, 150 children and a budget of
10 \$1 million; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to his work in higher education, Dr.
12 Jennings has held a number of governmental positions, including
13 evaluator for the United States Department of Education,
14 consultant to the United States Customs and Border Patrol
15 Services, lead trainer for the United States Equal Employment
16 Opportunity Commission, as well as a position within the United
17 States Environmental Protection Agency under President Ronald
18 Reagan; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1999, Dr. Jennings served as a consultant to the
20 United States Department of State, where he trained the rector
21 and his staff in the areas of strategic planing and external
22 relations at the University of Niamey in Niger, Africa; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Jennings has been active in both his community
24 and his profession, as evidenced by his five-year term as
25 chairman of the NAACP Education Legal Advisory Board, five-year
26 term on the board of directors of the University of Virginia's
27 Council on Minority Research in Special Education and his
28 completion of a three-year term as a charter member of the
29 Commission on Philanthropy for the Council for Advancement and
30 Support of Education; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Jennings has completed a four-year term on the
2 Joint Commission on Faculty Accountability for the American
3 Association of State Colleges and Universities, is a former
4 member of the Board of Directors of the Huntsville Chamber of
5 Commerce and formerly served on the board of directors of Girl
6 Scouts, Inc.; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Jennings has been the recipient of more than 30
8 citations and awards, has been mentioned in several national
9 publications and was selected as a regional finalist for a White
10 House Fellowship; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Jennings has published articles in several
12 scholarly journals, served as a columnist for "Minority Health
13 Today" and edited a book on the "state of black men in America"
14 in 1994; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Jennings will bring his experience in higher
16 education and management to Lincoln University, which, during
17 its 158-year history, has educated an impressive list of alumni
18 who have distinguished themselves as doctors, lawyers,
19 educators, businesspersons, theologians and heads of state,
20 including Thurgood Marshall and Langston Hughes; and

21 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that the House of
22 Representatives recognize and applaud the educational and
23 professional achievements of individuals committed to improving
24 higher education; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
26 honor Dr. Robert R. Jennings on his selection as the 13th
27 president of Lincoln University; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
29 Dr. Robert R. Jennings, President of Lincoln University.