
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 170 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY COMMITTEE AND TOMLINSON, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of West
2 Chester University.

3 WHEREAS, On September 25, 1871, 100 boarding school students
4 and 30 day students arrived for the first day of classes at West
5 Chester Normal School; and

6 WHEREAS, West Chester Normal School became West Chester State
7 Teachers College when the Commonwealth initiated a four-year
8 program of teacher education in 1927; and

9 WHEREAS, Upon the establishment of graduate studies in 1960,
10 West Chester State Teachers College became West Chester State
11 College; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1983, West Chester State College finally changed
13 its name to West Chester University and became one of the 14
14 universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher
15 Education; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2021, West Chester University has more than
17 17,700 students enrolled in 118 undergraduate programs, 91
18 master's degree programs and four doctoral programs, which

1 represents a substantial increase from the original 130 teacher
2 candidates; and

3 WHEREAS, The West Chester University Golden Rams athletic
4 program is a member of the Eastern College Athletic Conference
5 and competes in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference in
6 NCAA Division II; and

7 WHEREAS, Currently, there are more than 20 teams involved
8 with the West Chester University Golden Rams athletic program
9 and the teams have been recognized with several national, State
10 and regional championships; and

11 WHEREAS, The Golden Rams Marching Band features more than 300
12 students and performs regularly at West Chester University
13 football games, numerous exhibition events throughout the region
14 and special events for the university and community; and

15 WHEREAS, West Chester University offers many unique programs
16 for students, faculty, staff and other groups; and

17 WHEREAS, The Frederick Douglass Institute at West Chester
18 University is an academic program for advancing multicultural
19 studies across the curriculum and for deepening the intellectual
20 heritage of Frederick Douglass, the former slave and
21 distinguished orator, journalist, author and statesman; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Douglass, who was a frequent visitor to the West
23 Chester area, gave his last public lecture on West Chester's
24 campus on February 1, 1895; and an official historical marker
25 has been placed to denote that location; and

26 WHEREAS, The Institute of Race and Ethnic Studies at West
27 Chester University works with students, faculty, staff and other
28 groups on racial, ethnic and cultural understanding and
29 fostering the development of a diverse environment on campus;
30 and

1 WHEREAS, The Institute for Women at West Chester University
2 engages in campus activities for the benefit of female students,
3 faculty and staff; and

4 WHEREAS, West Chester University's Dub-C Autism Program is
5 part of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Autism
6 Initiative and supports matriculated students on the autism
7 spectrum; and

8 WHEREAS, West Chester University's Real Achievement Matters
9 Initiative is an inclusive postsecondary educational experience
10 for individuals with intellectual disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, The Real Achievement Matters Initiative allows
12 individuals with intellectual disabilities to learn, live and
13 interact with students, faculty and staff; and

14 WHEREAS, West Chester University's Poetry Center hosts the
15 annual West Chester University Poetry and Creative Arts Festival
16 and presents poetry readings throughout the year; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1979, the Honors College at West Chester
18 University was built upon the foundations of academic
19 excellence, campus engagement and community building with the
20 motto: "To Be Honorable is to Serve"; and

21 WHEREAS, The West Chester State College Quadrangle Historic
22 District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places
23 in 1981 and includes the Philips Memorial Building, Ruby Jones
24 Hall, Recitation Hall and the Old Library; and

25 WHEREAS, The official launch of West Chester University's
26 sesquicentennial is on Friday, September 17, 2021; therefore be
27 it

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate commemorate the 150th anniversary
29 of the founding of West Chester University.