

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 67

By Terry

A RESOLUTION to honor Susan R. Wente, Provost and Vice Chancellor of Vanderbilt University.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize an academic, scientist, and professional who has striven to serve and better Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Susan R. Wente, the Provost and Vice Chancellor of Vanderbilt University, is stepping down in June 2021 after seven years in those roles and nearly two decades of total service and will become the fourteenth president of Wake Forest University in July 2021; and

WHEREAS, Susan R. Wente served from August 15, 2019, to June 30, 2020, as the interim chancellor of Vanderbilt University, thereby becoming the first woman to lead that institution; and

WHEREAS, in her role as interim chancellor, Susan R. Wente implemented the university's COVID-19 response and Return to Campus plan, enabling Vanderbilt to become one of the few nationally leading universities to safely and successfully invite all students back to campus for the 2020-2021 academic year; and

WHEREAS, as provost, Susan R. Wente has been responsible for the academics of all ten of Vanderbilt's schools and colleges and developed the university's ten-year strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, throughout her time as provost, Vanderbilt came to be ranked fourteenth in national universities by the *U.S. News & World Report*, tenth in the Reuters list of the world's Most Innovative Universities, and first in financial aid and second in happiest students by the *Princeton Review*; and

WHEREAS, Susan R. Wente spearheaded a number of significant initiatives during her time at Vanderbilt, such as the Office of Inclusive Excellence, the undergraduate immersion program, and the academic features of the transition of Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center into two separate legal and financial entities; and

WHEREAS, Susan R. Wente is an accomplished professor of cell and development biology and continues as a mentor and leader in her laboratory, researching the exchange of proteins and RNA; and

WHEREAS, in her laboratory work, Susan R. Wente has made groundbreaking discoveries, has personally mentored thirty-six predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees, and has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1994; and

WHEREAS, over the course of her career, Susan R. Wente has received a number of awards, such as the MERIT award from the National Institutes of Health from 2010 to 2020, the Women in Cell Biology Senior Career Award from the ASCB in 2011, the John H. Exton Award for Research Leading to Innovative Biological Concepts in 2008, the Kirsch Foundation Investigator Award from 2001 to 2003, and the Beckman Young Investigator Award in 1996, among others; and

WHEREAS, Susan R. Wente serves as a Fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Society for Cell Biology; and

WHEREAS, Susan R. Wente has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed research articles and has served on editorial boards for leading academic journals; and

WHEREAS, throughout her accomplished career at Vanderbilt as professor, provost, vice chancellor, and interim chancellor, Susan R. Wente has furthered the reputation and success of Vanderbilt University and, by extension, the city of Nashville and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Susan R. Wentz upon her accomplished tenure serving and leading Vanderbilt University and extend to her our best wishes for her continued success at Wake Forest University and beyond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.