

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6034

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending President Wefald on his tremendous accomplishments as President of Kansas State University.

WHEREAS, Jon Wefald came to Kansas State University in 1986 after serving as chancellor of the Minnesota State University System for four years and president of Southwest State in Marshall, Minn., from 1977-82; and

WHEREAS, Jon Wefald has served admirably as the 12th president of K-State, leading the University through a time of unprecedented progress and success; and

WHEREAS, President Wefald is credited with transforming an institution with declining enrollments, low faculty morale, limited research and graduate programs, and a losing football program into a nationally ranked top 10 land grant university. Because of his leadership, K-State leads among peer institutions with significant research and graduate programs and a highly competitive athletic program in the prestigious Big 12 Conference; and

WHEREAS, under Wefald's leadership, K-State has, among many other accomplishments, achieved the following since 1986: Increased enrollments from 16,000 in 1986 to more than 23,000 students in 2008, increased private giving from about \$6 million in 1986 to close to \$100 million in 2008, increased competitive research from about \$15 million in 1986 to more than \$110 million in 2008 and overall research funding to more than \$220 million in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Under President Wefald's leadership K-State has constructed more than 2.2 million square feet of new buildings from 1986 to 2008, including a beautiful new library, art museum and alumni building; a remarkable feat in an era of dramatically declining state and federal funding; and

WHEREAS, President Wefald has played an important role in the creation of one of the most beautiful and clean college campuses anywhere in America; and

WHEREAS, K-State ranks first among all 500 public universities from 1986 to 2009 with 125 Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater and Udall Scholarships; and

WHEREAS, K-State ranks second among all of the nation's land-grant universities between 1986 and 2009 with K-State professors winning three Carnegie/CASE U.S. Professor of the Year Awards, seven Kansas Professor of the Year Awards and two national silver medalists; and

WHEREAS, President Wefald played an important role in helping K-State develop one of the best leadership academic programs in America-with about 1,300 students minoring in leadership studies; and

WHEREAS, During President Wefald's tenure K-State has developed a number of nationally-ranked athletic teams in the Big Eight and Big 12; and

WHEREAS President Wefald played a key role in the organization of the new Big 12 Conference in 1995-1996 and in K-State becoming a member of the Big 12; and

WHEREAS, President Wefald plans to retire this summer after the 2009 academic year to become a part-time professor of leadership studies and history. He will be succeeded by future President Kirk H. Schulz: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we do hereby commend and congratulate President Wefald for his highly distinguished career as President of K-State University, and thank him for the tremendous progress he has brought to Kansas State University and the state of Kansas overall. We wish him the best in all his future pursuits.

House Resolution No. 6034 was sponsored by Representatives Sydney Carlin and Tom Hawk.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*