

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Dallas has greatly benefited from the visionary leadership of President Richard C. Benson, who has guided the institution over the past eight years; and

WHEREAS, In his role at UTD's helm, Dr. Benson has launched ambitious fundraising endeavors, including the New Dimensions campaign, which has amassed more than \$415 million to date; he has also overseen tens of millions of dollars in research expenditures, and his tenure has coincided with the advancement of several significant campus projects, including the opening of the Texas Instruments Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building and the breaking of ground on the 12-acre Athenaeum cultural district; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Benson earned his bachelor's degree in aerospace and mechanical science from Princeton University in 1973, his master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Virginia in 1974, and his doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1977; prior to the start of his career in higher education, he was employed with the Xerox Corporation; in 1980, he became a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Rochester, where he later served as an associate dean and chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering; and

WHEREAS, While at Penn State from 1995 to 2005, Dr. Benson headed the Department of Mechanical Engineering, later renamed the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering; he also served as dean of the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech from 2005 to 2016, during which time that department achieved record growth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Benson has been honored on many occasions by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, of which he has been a Fellow since 1998; he received ASME's Henry Hess Award in 1984, and in 2009, he was elected to a three-year term on the organization's board of governors; he has further held editorial positions with several ASME publications, including its *Journal of Applied Mechanics*; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure as president, Dr. Richard Benson has worked tirelessly to elevate UTD's status as a first-rate research university and a premier institution of higher learning, and his achievements will continue to be appreciated for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby honor President Richard C. Benson for his outstanding service to The University of Texas at Dallas and the field of higher education and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Dr. Benson as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Johnson, Hall, Hancock
Parker, Paxton, West

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 4, 2025.

Secretary of the Senate