

***Suggested draft resolution to be edited/personalized as deemed appropriate by the approving governance entities***

Resolution honoring the Bicentennial of Centenary College of Louisiana

- Whereas In 1825, the College of Louisiana was established by the state legislature in Jackson, Louisiana. In the yet young state, it quickly established itself as one of the nation's leading colleges; and
- Whereas In 1841, Centenary College opened in Brandon Springs, Mississippi, under the auspices of the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, honoring the centennial of the ministry of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism; and
- Whereas In 1845, the merger of these two institutions created Centenary College of Louisiana, which is today the oldest institution of higher learning in the state; and
- Whereas Centenary College was debilitated by loss of property and life during the Civil War, and struggled to regain its prominence; and
- Whereas In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a group of forward-thinking church, civic, and philanthropic leaders proposed relocating Centenary College to Shreveport, a move that was completed in 1908; and
- Whereas Throughout its history in Northwest Louisiana, Centenary College has been a leading educator in its region, truly establishing itself as Shreveport-Bossier's college, and being consistently recognized as a nationally ranked liberal arts institution; and
- Whereas Centenary College excels in providing its students a premier liberal arts education, within its mission to prepare global citizens to lead productive lives of vitality and purpose; and
- Whereas Centenary College generates significant economic benefit for the Northwest Louisiana region, and enriches the local population with its cultural, intellectual, and athletics activities available to the public; and
- Whereas Centenary College has grown markedly in enrollment, academic programming, and extracurricular offerings in its last decade and is committed to continued growth and excellence as it enters its third century in 2025; be it therefore
- Resolved That **this body** wholeheartedly commends and greatly appreciates Centenary College and its longstanding contributions to higher education and to the State of Louisiana and the Northwest Louisiana community; and be it further

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Resolved That **this body** recognizes and enthusiastically celebrates the yearlong observance of the bicentennial of Centenary College of Louisiana, being officially launched on January 8, 2025; and be it further

Resolved That January 8, 2025, be designated as Centenary College of Louisiana Day; and be it further

Resolved That this resolution be permanently entered into the records of **this body.**