

**2015 -- H 5115**

=====  
LC000607  
=====

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

---

**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF JOHNSON &  
WALES UNIVERSITY**

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, Kennedy, Reilly, Fellela, and O`Grady

Date Introduced: January 15, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, On September 14, 1914, Gertrude Irene Johnson and Mary Tiffany Wales  
2 opened the Johnson & Wales Business School to impart to young people the knowledge and skills  
3 needed to enter the world of business and, in the words of Miss Wales, to provide a program of  
4 business and office education "not for its own sake, but as preparation for what lies beyond"; and

5           WHEREAS, As men left to fight in World War I and women stepped in to meet the needs  
6 of the business workforce, some sought additional training and education at the business school  
7 founded by Miss Johnson and Miss Wales; and

8           WHEREAS, The school had originally opened with one student and one typewriter in  
9 Miss Johnson's home at 250 Hope Street on the East Side of Providence, but as the school began  
10 to grow, it moved to larger accommodations at 222 Olney Street and, in 1926, moved downtown  
11 to 36 Exchange Place; and

12           WHEREAS, Following the Hurricane of 1938 and the end of the Great Depression, the  
13 school continued to grow, necessitating a move in 1940 to larger facilities in the Gardner  
14 Building at 40 Fountain Street in Providence; and

15           WHEREAS, In 1947, Edward and Vilma Triangolo partnered with Morris and Audrey  
16 Gaebe to acquire the school which had grown to 125 students, adding courses in business  
17 management, marketing, salesmanship and accounting; and

18           WHEREAS, In 1960, the school received accreditation as a junior college of business by  
19 the Accrediting Commission of Business Schools in Washington, D.C., a certification of

1 excellence for non-public, career-oriented institutions; and

2 WHEREAS, The school's growing enrollment and reputation necessitated a permanent  
3 location, and Morris Gaebe and Edward Triangolo purchased Johnson & Wales' first building,  
4 Plantations Hall in Providence in 1962, moving 300 students from rented facilities at Fountain  
5 Street into a new home; and

6 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales Junior College of Business, a nonprofit, degree-granting,  
7 institution, was incorporated in 1963 to take over the operations of Johnson & Wales School of  
8 Business, Inc.; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1970, with enrollment at 900 students, the institution changed its name to  
10 Johnson & Wales College and was authorized by the State of Rhode Island to confer  
11 baccalaureate and honorary degrees; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1973, the college began transforming a former World War II Liberty Ship  
13 shipyard located along Narragansett Bay into a school to teach culinary arts, an area that would  
14 eventually grow to become the school's Harborside Campus; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1980, the Governor and General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island  
16 granted a legislative charter authorizing the college to award advanced degrees; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1984, a regional campus was established in Charleston, South Carolina,  
18 which offered a variety of two and four-year programs in food service, hospitality and travel-  
19 tourism; and

20 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales opened its graduate school on the Harborside Campus in  
21 1985, eventually growing to offer master's degrees in business, teacher education and criminal  
22 justice, and a doctorate in educational leadership; and

23 WHEREAS, The university opened a Norfolk, Virginia, campus in 1986, offering one  
24 and two-year food service programs; and

25 WHEREAS, In 1988, Johnson & Wales answered a growing need across all industries  
26 with the establishment of a School of Technology; and

27 WHEREAS, With the approval of the State of Rhode Island, in 1988, Johnson & Wales  
28 College was renamed Johnson & Wales University to reflect its status as a full university; and

29 WHEREAS, The university formally established the College of Business, The Hospitality  
30 College, the College of Culinary Arts, the School of Technology, and the School of Arts &  
31 Sciences in Providence in 1991 ; and

32 WHEREAS, In 1992, the university opened another campus in North Miami, Florida,  
33 offering culinary arts, business and hospitality undergraduate degree programs; and

34 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales University established the first bachelor's degree program

1 in culinary arts in the country in 1993; and

2 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales, earned regional accreditation through the Commission on  
3 Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) of the New England Association of Schools & Colleges  
4 Inc. (NEAS&C) in 1994; and

5 WHEREAS, In September of 2000, the University opened a Denver, Colorado campus,  
6 offering undergraduate degrees in culinary arts, hospitality, and business; and

7 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales University consolidated its Norfolk, Virginia, and  
8 Charleston, South Carolina, campuses and opened a campus in Charlotte, North Carolina in the  
9 fall of 2004, offering undergraduate degree programs in business, culinary arts, and hospitality;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales University invested more than \$200 million in the  
12 construction of new facilities and renovations to existing facilities on its two Providence  
13 campuses between 2000 and 2009; and

14 WHEREAS, In February of 2012, during a time of increasing economic instability in the  
15 City of Providence, Johnson & Wales University was the first institution of higher education in  
16 Providence to step forward and increase its payments in lieu of taxes to the city, with university  
17 leaders stating "we cannot be a successful institution in a failing city"; and

18 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales University employs 561 faculty and 1,036 staff members  
19 for a total of 1,597 employees in Rhode Island making it among the top private employers in the  
20 state in 2014; and

21 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales University students at the Providence Campus perform  
22 more than 150,000 hours of community service annually; and

23 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales University has been named to the President's Higher  
24 Education Community Service Honor Roll each year since it was established in 2006; and

25 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales University was named one of "81 Great Schools with  
26 Outstanding Community Involvement" by The Princeton Review's Colleges with a Conscience;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Since its founding Johnson & Wales University's student body has grown  
29 from one student in its first year in Providence to a more than 16,000 undergraduate students and  
30 984 graduate students across four states in 2014; and

31 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, Johnson & Wales University has accepted many  
32 first-generation students, opening the opportunity for a higher education to thousands of  
33 applicants; and

34 WHEREAS, Johnson & Wales University continues to produce highly qualified and

1 exceptional graduates, respected as leaders in their fields and industries locally, nationally and  
2 internationally; now, therefore be it

3           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
4 Providence Plantations hereby encourages and supports the efforts of Johnson & Wales  
5 University to commemorate and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of its founding; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That this House hereby conveys its collective wishes for continued  
7 innovation in education, enduring contributions to the state and service to the community; and be  
8 it further

9           RESOLVED, That this House hereby welcomes this centennial celebration as an  
10 opportunity to celebrate Johnson & Wales University's accomplishments, consider the Johnson &  
11 Wales University of today, and imagine Johnson & Wales University's future in the 21st century  
12 and beyond; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, and the Chancellor and President  
15 of Johnson & Wales University.

=====  
LC000607  
=====