

SENATE RESOLUTION

8655

By Senator Randall

1 WHEREAS, Jan Yoshiwara is retiring as executive director of the
2 Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges on July
3 31, 2022; and

4 WHEREAS, Jan's retirement caps an honorable and impactful 44-year
5 career serving Washington's community and technical college students
6 and the 34 local colleges that serve them; and

7 WHEREAS, Jan is dedicated to providing higher education
8 opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds for whom a
9 college credential can make the greatest change in the trajectory of
10 their lives and the lives of their families; and

11 WHEREAS, Jan attended high school and college in California
12 during a time of excitement, change, and social activism in the 1960s
13 and early 1970s; and

14 WHEREAS, Jan was influenced by the civil rights movement and
15 decided to work at the intersection of civil rights and higher
16 education by serving students who may not have the same opportunities
17 as others because of financial hardships, language barriers, race, or
18 ethnicity; and

19 WHEREAS, Under Jan's leadership, Washington's community and
20 technical college system put racial equity at the front and center of
21 its mission; and

22 WHEREAS, Due to Jan's leadership, Washington's community and
23 technical colleges are part of a national reform movement called

1 "Guided Pathways" to increase retention and completion rates for all
2 students, especially students of color; and

3 WHEREAS, Under Jan's visionary direction, Washington became one
4 of the first states in the nation to offer applied bachelor's
5 degrees, allowing students to build on 2-year professional degrees
6 and earn bachelor's degrees close to home; and

7 WHEREAS, Jan was at the forefront of the community and technical
8 college system's adoption of a performance-based funding model that
9 awards colleges funds when students reach key momentum points leading
10 to a credential; and

11 WHEREAS, Jan established a research division within the State
12 Board to ensure the community and technical college system is
13 transparent, accountable, and data-driven; and

14 WHEREAS, Jan's reforms are helping to move more students from
15 K-12, through college, and into careers and universities, thereby
16 uplifting the lives of the people who live, work, and innovate in
17 Washington; and

18 WHEREAS, Jan has shepherded the community and technical college
19 system through sweeping changes with a mix of grace, expertise, and
20 collaboration that has won the affection and respect of all those who
21 work with her;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate express its
23 deepest gratitude to Jan Yoshiwara for a life-long career serving
24 students, colleges, employers, and communities in Washington state;
25 and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
27 immediately transmitted to Jan Yoshiwara and members of the State
28 Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

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