

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing Kentucky State University on the opening of a new
2 cooperative extension office in West Louisville.

3 WHEREAS, in 2021 the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 270, which was
4 aimed at improving the Commonwealth by targeting West Louisville through supporting
5 higher education, economic development, and public safety; and

6 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 270 included a West Louisville Health and Wellness Pilot
7 Project, which required Kentucky State University to "partner with the Cabinet for Health
8 and Family Services and any other historically black college or university (HBCU) in the
9 Commonwealth to design and implement a pilot project to help address issues of health
10 education, wellness, and food insecurity in African-American communities encompassing
11 or adjacent to an HBCU in West Louisville"; and

12 WHEREAS, after considering a range of possible office sites to set up a KSU
13 Cooperative Extension unit to serve the West Louisville area, KSU identified and rented
14 a home office space and classroom in the Louisville Central Community Center in the
15 spring of 2022; and

16 WHEREAS, the team of the West Louisville/KSU extension office will consist of
17 professionals in nutrition education, community resource development, local food system
18 justice, urban agriculture, horticulture, and extension program support; and

19 WHEREAS, this team will establish community partnerships to promote
20 community access to local foods and build collaborations for community nutrition
21 education programs. Such programs could support the development of a farmer's market,
22 farm-to-table events, and local food projects in West Louisville; and

23 WHEREAS, the team will also seek to partner with West Louisville high schools to
24 create a hydroponics program in collaboration with AppHarvest. The program will
25 facilitate student projects in environmental science and biology while creating
26 opportunities for students to enroll in dual credit courses; and

27 WHEREAS, Kentucky State University has also developed the KSU Thoroughbred

1 Nutrition Kitchen, a 24-foot commercial kitchen created with the goal of educating
2 individuals and families in urban neighborhoods about nutrition, healthy cooking, and
3 dining; and

4 WHEREAS, Kentucky State University has requested grant funds to place two
5 SNAP-Ed program assistants in the West Louisville extension office. These assistants
6 will provide individual and group instruction about health and wellness to families in the
7 community. They will also discuss such topics as food safety, menu planning, and
8 economical food purchases for maximum nutritional value; and

9 WHEREAS, in the future, KSU will embark on a sustainable urban agriculture
10 project to develop a vertical farming system using freight containers, commonly referred
11 to as a freight farm; and

12 WHEREAS, a ribbon cutting ceremony for Kentucky State University's West
13 Louisville cooperative extension office will take place on March 3, 2023; and

14 WHEREAS, the members of this honorable body commend Kentucky State
15 University for their continued commitment to the community of West Louisville;

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

17 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
18 *Kentucky:*

19 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby recognizes Kentucky State University on the
20 opening of a new cooperative extension office in West Louisville.

21 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
22 Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal for presentation to Kentucky State University.