Assembly Resolution No. 922

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

COMMEMORATING the 80th Anniversary of Utica University

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those exemplary institutions of higher education within the State of New York for their enduring commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Utica University; and

WHEREAS, Located in the heart of Central New York, Utica University is a comprehensive, independent, private institution that offers undergraduate and graduate degree options, excellent academic programs, and outstanding faculty; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the need for an institution of higher learning in the Mohawk Valley, business and community leaders worked with Syracuse University to launch Utica University in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Originally, Utica University was located in a section of downtown Utica known as Oneida Square, then, in 1961, the school moved to its current site off of Burrstone Road in Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Operating as part of Syracuse University, Utica University was originally known as Utica College of Syracuse University; and

WHEREAS, Utica University became a financially and legally independent institution in 1995, then it announced its final transition to full independence in the fall of 2008; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, Utica University became one of the first private colleges in New York to be granted university status by the New York State Board of Regents, elevating Utica College to Utica University; and

WHEREAS, Boasting over 32,000 alumni, Utica University offers 40 undergraduate majors, 29 undergraduate minors, and 21 graduate programs; the university consists of the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business and Justice Studies, and the School of Health Professions and Education; and

WHEREAS, Utica University strives to empower learners to achieve their career and life goals through personally enriching experiences and outstanding educational pathways; and

WHEREAS, Utica University's mission is to guide its students through individual attention, intellectual growth, creativity, scholarship in the pursuit of knowledge, innovative and relevant approaches to teaching and learning, diversity of perspective, background, and experience in an

equitable, respectful, and inclusive environment, freedom of expression, civil discourse, community engagement and service, ethical behavior, integrity, and the continuous pursuit of excellence; and

WHEREAS, The current president, Dr. Stephanie Nesbitt, has full confidence in Utica University's future and plans on continuing the restructuring plan her predecessor began in order to ensure long-term sustainability and address changing needs in higher education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stephanie Nesbitt's first day as Utica University's president was January 1, 2026, and she has initially agreed to serve as president through July 31, 2028, to provide leadership stability while the university begins its search for its next president; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its distinguished 80-year history, Utica University has remained steadfast in its mission, values, and commitment to offering an enriching educational experience to its students; and

WHEREAS, The steadfast and unyielding commitment of faculty, staff and administrators to provide the highest quality education for students has become the hallmark and tradition of Utica University; and

WHEREAS, Utica University stands prepared to reach out, in earnest and enthusiastic quest of its mission, to promote the maximum growth of every student, establishing standards and building skills which will carry its students and the citizens of its community into the future; and

WHEREAS, Utica University, along with its President Dr. Stephanie Nesbitt, is deserving of the highest commendation for its evident commitment to the well-being of its students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Utica University; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Stephanie Nesbitt, President of Utica University.