



RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

TO NAME THE NEW RESIDENCE HALL ON HIGHLAND DRIVE (PW746)

ALMA CLARK GLASS HALL

WHEREAS, Western Washington University is committed to providing access to transformational higher education for the people of the State of Washington, pursuing justice and equity in its policies and practices, and supporting an inclusive and welcoming campus environment that celebrates the dignity and value of all students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, Western's 2018 – 2025 Strategic Plan acknowledges Western has failed to meet the needs of people of many races, ethnicities, creeds, socioeconomic classes, gender identities, sexual orientations, and disability statuses, and states Western will contribute to redressing these inequities by transforming policies, structures, and practices to ensure meaningful inclusion; and

WHEREAS, a letter submitted by the leaders of Black student organizations in June 2020 expressed an urgent desire to see Western consider how the names of its buildings fail to reflect the experiences of Black and other diverse students; and

WHEREAS, Western aspires to make its residence halls a welcoming “home away from home” community for students, and a place where individuals of all identities feel a sense of belonging, safety, and support for their personal growth at Western; and

WHEREAS, the naming of a residence hall presents a unique opportunity to physically and symbolically embed the institution's commitments to fostering greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in one of the most intimate student-centered spaces on campus; and

WHEREAS, according to University records, **ALMA CLARK GLASS** was the first Black student to enroll at Washington State Normal School at Bellingham, completing coursework in psychology, geography, physical culture, biology, and botany, as well as observation and practice teaching in the winter and spring of 1906; and

WHEREAS, **ALMA CLARK GLASS** became an assistant librarian in the Seattle Public Library System in November 1906, having achieved the highest score on the civil service examination, according to the *Seattle Republican* newspaper; and

WHEREAS, **ALMA CLARK GLASS** was a founding member of the Seattle chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1913, and served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Seattle Urban League in 1946; and

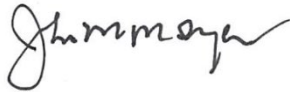
WHEREAS, the new dormitory replacing Highland Hall has been designed around inclusive, communal living and collaborative spaces, and will provide ADA access to the steeply graded Ridgeway Housing Complex for the first time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, that the new residence hall on Highland Drive be named

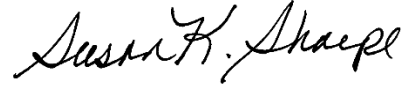
ALMA CLARK GLASS HALL

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University at its meeting on December 11, 2020.

ATTEST:



John M. Meyer, Chair



Susan K. Sharpe, Secretary