

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Marion Simon upon the occasion of her retirement.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Marion Simon retired in September 2023 after a career as a state
3 specialist for small and part-time farmers from 1984 to 2023. During that time, she held
4 professorial and administrative roles at Kentucky State University; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Simon consistently aspired to secure agriculture funding for the
6 training of Kentucky State University employees and farmers. Well-known for her skill at
7 writing and obtaining grants, Dr. Simon was involved in securing about 300 grants
8 totaling several million dollars for Kentucky State University's Land Grant Program and
9 the small farmers it serves; and

10 WHEREAS, one of Dr. Simon's greatest achievements was establishing the Third
11 Thursday Thing program, a monthly sustainable agriculture workshop which began in
12 1997. Still active, the workshop's goal is to improve the sustainability of agriculture on
13 Kentucky's small and limited-resource farms, as well as its female and minority-owned
14 farms. While originally started as a training program for extension agents, the program
15 quickly gained popularity and expanded to educate other members of the community; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Simon was instrumental in beef cattle workshops hosted
17 throughout the year and at the Small, Limited-Resource, Minority Farmers Conference
18 hosted annually by Kentucky State University; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Simon earned many professional awards and recognitions at the
20 state and national level. In 2013, she received the 1890 Excellence in Extension Award
21 from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. She was then awarded the
22 Mack Whitaker Outstanding Service Award for a State Level Career Professional in the
23 Kentucky Extension System in 2017. She also received the Agricultural Heritage Award
24 at Kentucky State University's 2022 Heritage Assembly. Dr. Simon has also been
25 honored by the United States Department of Agriculture on several occasions; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Simon retired in September 2023 after nearly 40 years of service
27 to Kentucky State University and small farmers across Kentucky; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Simon's service to the agriculture community and her lasting
2 impact on Kentucky State University are worthy of public recognition and acclaim;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
5 *Kentucky:*

6 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate join Senator Reginald Thomas in
7 applauding the accomplishments of Kentucky State University's Dr. Marion Simon for
8 her nearly 40-year career with the university and the agriculture community,
9 congratulating her on her retirement, and wishing her good fortune in all future
10 endeavors.

11 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
12 Senator Reginald Thomas for presentation to Dr. Marion Simon.