

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY SENATORS PETERSON, BROOME, BUFFINGTON AND DORSEY-COLOMB
AND REPRESENTATIVES BARROW, CHAMPAGNE, HILL,
HODGES, KATRINA JACKSON, NANCY LANDRY, MORENO,
NORTON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, THIERRY AND WHITNEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Alma Thornton of Baton Rouge upon her receipt of a 2012 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Dr. Thornton upon her receipt of a 2012 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation and to recognize her vital contributions to the citizens of Louisiana as an active and dedicated community servant; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thornton is a Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Social Research at Southern University and A & M College; and

WHEREAS, she graduated from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in 1970 with a bachelor degree in Sociology, from Southern University in 1973 with master of Social Science, and from Louisiana State University in 1979 with a doctorate degree in Sociology, and since 1979, has been employed at Southern University; and

WHEREAS, during a tenure of more than thirty years, Dr. Thornton's work and contributions have extended far beyond classroom instruction as she believes that investment in the education of children is the greatest contribution that can be made to secure their future; and

WHEREAS, with United States Congressional funding, early in her career, Dr. Thornton conducted research on the social condition of youth in the Mississippi Delta, visiting communities in all states contiguous to the Mississippi River from Illinois to Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, she testified at congressional hearings on the needs of youth in some of the most economically depressed regions of the country; has garnered federal and state

funding to support work in developing and implementing education, community development and family stability programs; and understands the importance of youth mentoring and role modeling, developing life and social skills, and cultivating a strong academic foundation; and

WHEREAS, with support from the National Science Foundation, Dr. Thornton built a computer and research laboratory to improve the academic environment and education of students; and

WHEREAS, as director of the Ronald McNair Scholars program, she works to bring resources to Southern University to increase the number of first generation college students earning post baccalaureate degrees; supervises doctoral dissertation and masters level thesis research; provides mentioned research experiences for numerous others; assists students in identifying and applying for graduate schools; accompanies students to many research and professional conferences to present research findings; and has conducted research on health and nutrition of residents in the lower Mississippi Delta and needs of limited resources children and families; and

WHEREAS, as director of the Center for Social Research, Dr. Thornton works with local community agencies and non-profits in identifying and securing funds to help support their agency missions and assists the local communities with housing and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, she has received several awards including, several Southern University Grantsmanship awards, HCFA Administrator's Achievement award and the Southern University Community Service award; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation created the Women of Excellence Awards to recognize and honor extraordinary women of excellence across the state for their outstanding achievements and contributions; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the Women of Excellence Awards exhibit characteristics of integrity and professionalism, personify excellence in their area of specialty, and are committed to community service to better society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, this year, there were seven categories for the Women of Excellence Awards: Business, College Woman of Excellence, Education & Research, Government &

Law, High School Woman of Excellence, Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics, and Volunteerism and Civic Involvement; and

WHEREAS, the recipients of the 2012 Women of Excellence Awards are being recognized at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Women of Excellence Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thornton received a 2012 Women of Excellence Award in the category of Education and Research for her highly productive community activism and service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thornton merits a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation for her dedication to excellence and her outstanding accomplishments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Alma Thornton of Baton Rouge upon her receipt of a 2012 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation, does hereby recognize and record for posterity her singular contributions to the citizens of Louisiana as an active and dedicated community servant, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous honor and pride that she brings to her family and friends, the city of Baton Rouge, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Thornton.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES