

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY SENATOR MURRAY

A RESOLUTION

To express and affirm the support and appreciation of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana for the leadership, cooperation, and collaboration of Louisiana's postsecondary institutions of higher education in their desire and efforts to develop and participate in statewide initiatives that address Black male student success in higher education.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's growing workforce demands greater educational attainment by its citizens; and

WHEREAS, illustrative data from the New Orleans metro area indicate that only 11% of Black males in the New Orleans metro area earn bachelor's degrees and that the Black male employment rate in New Orleans in 2011 was 48% versus 74% for white males; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has created the Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy (WISE) Plan to strengthen the collaboration between higher education, economic development, and workforce commission; and

WHEREAS, the Southern University System created the Five Fifths Agenda for America demonstration project in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Dillard University hosted the Louisiana Summit on the Black Male Success in Higher Education March 2014; and

WHEREAS, Xavier University, Dillard University, Southern University, and the city of New Orleans are currently working on a citywide initiative that focuses on this issue; and

WHEREAS, the presidents of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the Louisiana State University System, the Southern University System, and the University of Louisiana System, as well as the leadership of the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, have reaffirmed the value of developing collaborative statewide initiatives that focus on Black male student success in higher education and their desire to be a part of such initiatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express and affirm its support for all Louisiana postsecondary institutions of higher education and their leadership to cooperate and collaborate in developing statewide initiatives that address Black male success in higher education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presidents of the public higher education systems, the chairman of the Board of Regents, and the president of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE