**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE SOUTH CAROLINA HONORS COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA ON BEING NAMED THE TOP HONORS PROGRAM IN AMERICA IN *A REVIEW OF FIFTY PUBLIC UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAMS* AND TO COMMEND THE COLLEGE ON ITS CONTINUED ENVIRONMENT OF EXCELLENCE.

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased and proud to learn that the South Carolina Honors College at the University of South Carolina has been ranked number one in *A Review of Fifty Public University Honors Programs*, to be published in April 2012, by Public University Honors, an information and assessment enterprise dedicated to honors colleges; and

Whereas, the 275‑page book is intended to be used as a guide for prospective college students. Basing its evaluations on honors curriculum, honors‑retention and graduation rates, honors housing, study‑abroad programs, and priority registration, the publication reviews honors programs at all public universities ranked in the top seventy‑five nationally, as well as those public universities that are members of the Association of American Universities; and

Whereas, in this first‑ever ranking of public university honors colleges, the South Carolina Honors College further authenticates its well‑established reputation for a varied and rigorous curriculum, an array of enrichment opportunities for students, and high‑achieving alumni. Established as a program in 1968 and then as a college in 1978, the college enrolls 1,400 students and offers a recently constructed LEED‑Gold certified honors residence hall with suite‑style rooms and meeting space. The average SAT score of last year’s incoming class was an impressive 1427; and

Whereas, offering approximately 230 honors classes each semester with an average class size of only fourteen students, the college is able to attract superb students, the best of the best, to South Carolina and to provide excellence in educational opportunities to outstanding students from South Carolina; and

Whereas, its top‑ten national ranking in the guide placed USC as the leader ahead of the University of Texas at Austin, University of Michigan, Arizona State University, Michigan State University, University of Georgia, University of Delaware, University of Virginia, University of Minnesota, and Penn State University; and

Whereas, in addition, *A Review of Fifty Public University Honors Programs* ranks honors colleges within the context of their universities, and the South Carolina Honors College is among the top ten. This ranking is based on the same factors already named, with the additional criteria of prestigious undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships for the sponsoring university as a whole; and

Whereas, grateful for the University of South Carolina’s commitment to excellence, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in recognizing the South Carolina Honors College at USC on this noteworthy achievement. The members appreciate the former deans, including Tayloe Harding, Davis Baird, Peter Sederberg, and William Mould, staff, and distinguished alumni who set the course for excellence and applaud Dean Steven Lynn and Senior Associate Dean Jim Burns, the college’s distinguished faculty and staff, and fine students for their dedicated labors and look with interest to hearing of their future accomplishments. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the South Carolina Honors College at the University of South Carolina on being named the top honors program in America in *A Review of Fifty Public University Honors Programs* and commend the college on its continued environment of excellence.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dean Steven Lynn of the South Carolina Honors College at the University of South Carolina.

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