**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE LANDER UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SEASON AND TO COMMEND ITS OUTSTANDING PLAYERS AND COACHES FOR EARNING A BERTH IN THE ELITE 8 OF THE 2012 NCAA DIVISION II TOURNAMENT.

Whereas, the Lander University women’s basketball team returned recently from San Antonio, Texas, after making their first‑ever trip to the Elite 8 of the NCAA Division II Tournament; and

Whereas, the Lady Bearcats qualified for a school‑record fifth consecutive NCAA Tournament after posting a 20‑6 regular‑season record, including a 15‑3 Peach Belt Conference mark. As the number 4 seed in the NCAA Tournament, the Lady Bearcats defeated number 5 seed Limestone and number 1 seed USC Aiken and qualified for the Elite 8 with a thrilling double overtime victory against number 3 seed Wingate University; and

Whereas, in addition, the Lady Bearcats are the only team in the country to advance at least to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament each of the last three years. Their success has been assisted greatly by this year’s senior class, which includes four 1,000‑point scorers. Together, these seniors have amassed a four‑year record of 100 wins and 27 losses; and

Whereas, no strangers to top performance, Lander has taken home numerous trophies. The Lady Bearcats have been named 2008 and 2010 Peach Belt Conference regular‑season champions; 2008 and 2009 Peach Belt Conference Tournament champions; 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 NCAA Tournament participants; and 2012 NCAA Southeast Region champions; and

Whereas, drawing on his own athletic ability and leadership skills, Head Coach Kevin Pederson led the Lady Bearcats throughout their outstanding 2012 season, inspiring them to put forth their best; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate take great pleasure in recognizing the young athletes of the Lander University women’s basketball team for their fine example both on and off the court and anticipate hearing of their continued successes in the years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate the Lander University women’s basketball team for a highly successful season and commend its outstanding players and coaches for earning a berth in the Elite 8 of the 2012 NCAA Division II Tournament.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to President Daniel W. Ball and Head Coach Kevin Pederson of Lander University.

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