**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF THE WORLD DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATOR EXCHANGE TO ASSIST OTHER LEGISLATORS FROM A MYRIAD OF INTERNATIONAL LOCATIONS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR CITIZENS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly commend the crucial work performed by the World Development Alliance (WDA) and the South Carolina Legislator Exchange; and

Whereas, a nonprofit organization based in Columbia, the WDA works with local, regional, national, and international governments as they offer various strategies for meeting the needs of economic planning and developmental goals incumbent upon their roles while maintaining environmental goals and social justice for all of their citizens; and

Whereas, the WDA specializes in identifying, recruiting, and retaining experts in various fields to assist client states and provides oversight and liaison services between project managers and client states; and

Whereas, through such projects as renewable energy, affordable housing, water‑purification and waste‑management systems, food production and security, education policy and pedagogy, strategic planning, public policy development and evaluation, and the transfer and acquisition of technology, the WDA assists clients states with development vital to meaningful growth without the economic burden of staff dedicated to those tasks; and

Whereas, established in 2010 as a project of the World Development Alliance, the South Carolina Legislator Exchange seeks to foster collaboration between Benedict College, South Carolina legislators, and their legislative counterparts around the world; and

Whereas, because the developing nations have become the new emerging marketplace for the world, seven of the fastest growing economies being in Africa, the South Carolina Legislator Exchange seeks to expose South Carolina businesses to opportunities in the developing world; and

Whereas, South Carolina companies, with their well‑developed agricultural, energy, and technological sectors, could benefit from the billions of dollars in contracts currently available in the developing world, and the South Carolina Legislator Exchange offers the opportunity to introduce these companies to many of the decision makers who will play important roles in choosing investments to be made abroad and contractors for their countries; and

Whereas, as a collaborative effort between the Benedict College Office of International Programs and members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, the South Carolina Legislator Exchange offers participating legislators training in the application of federalist principles at the state level and opportunities to share knowledge on specific new techniques and technologies that may offer solutions to difficult issues facing governments with limited resources; and

Whereas, visiting legislators to our State have more than thirty institutions of higher learning, thirty‑three hospitals, two medical schools, and state and government agencies at their disposal, and they benefit from exposure to the state’s tourism industry, agricultural research, business opportunities, and cultural exchange; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are grateful for the work of the World Development Alliance and the South Carolina Legislator Exchange in showcasing and sharing the principles of government and society that have made America a thriving nation with other legislators from around the world. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor the outstanding collaborative efforts of the World Development Alliance and the South Carolina Legislator Exchange to assist other legislators from a myriad of international locations in their efforts to meet the needs of their citizens.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Norma Jackson, Director of Benedict College International Programs.

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