**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. DWAUN J. WARMACK ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INAUGURATION AS THE NINTH PRESIDENT OF CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS AS HE CONTINUES TO LEAD THE UNIVERSITY IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack will be inaugurated as the ninth president of Claflin University on Friday, March 20, 2020; and

Whereas, in June 2019, the Claflin University Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack as the ninth president of the first historically black college and university (HBCU) in South Carolina, effective August 1, 2019. He succeeded Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, who retired after a quarter century of transformational leadership at this Orangeburg institution, founded in 1869; and

Whereas, Dr. Warmack assumed the mantle of leadership at Claflin after serving the previous five years as president of Harris‑Stowe State University in Missouri. At the time of his appointment to that worthy institution, he was one of the youngest presidents of a four‑year institution in the nation. On coming to Claflin, he brought with him more than two decades of progressive administrative experience in higher education at five distinct institutions of higher education; and

Whereas, prior to his appointment as president of Harris‑Stowe, he served as the senior vice president, administration and student services, at Bethune‑Cookman University. He also has served as associate dean of students at Rhodes College in Memphis and in various positions at Western Carolina University in North Carolina and Delta State University in Mississippi; and

Whereas, he provides a brand of leadership characterized by an unqualified insistence on data‑driven decision‑making and a commitment to higher education’s current best practices. Considered to be a servant leader and visionary with a unique understanding of, and appreciation for, today’s Millennial and Generation Y students, he is committed to the academic integration and holistic development of students; and

Whereas, Dr. Warmack is also committed to developing programs that promote diversity, pluralism, and cultural competency. Throughout his career, he has championed inclusion and academic excellence, as well as retention of underrepresented students; and

Whereas, Dr. Warmack earned a bachelor’s degree in education and a master’s degree in sociology from Delta State University. He earned his doctorate in educational leadership with a specialization in higher education from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. He completed postdoctoral work in educational leadership at Harvard University School of Education. Dr. Warmack is married to LaKisha Warmack, and they have one daughter, Morgan; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in saluting Dr. Warmack at the celebration of his inauguration as Claflin’s ninth president, and the members extend best wishes to Dr. Warmack, his family, and the university at this blessed time of rejoicing. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack on the occasion of his inauguration as the ninth president of Claflin University and wish him much success as he continues to lead the university in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack.

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