**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE BENEDICT COLLEGE ON RECEIVING A 2019 ACE/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS AWARD FOR INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that Benedict College has been selected as a 2019 recipient of the prestigious ACE/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation; and

Whereas, on March 10, 2019, the American Council on Education (ACE) announced that Columbia’s Benedict College had been selected to receive an ACE/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation. Presented at ACE2019, ACE’s annual meeting, the award was accepted by President Roslyn Clark Artis on behalf of Benedict College, the University of South Florida being the only other recipient of this national award; and

Whereas, the award was created to recognize institutions that have responded to higher‑education challenges in innovative and creative ways and achieved dramatic changes in a relatively brief period. It includes a prize of ten thousand dollars; and

Whereas, upon President Artis’ appointment in June 2017, Benedict started assessing various issues facing the college while formulating a five‑year strategic plan for sustainability and growth. Beginning by gathering insight from key stakeholders, Benedict then eliminated long‑standing open enrollment, strengthened career‑development opportunities, lowered tuition, revised the curriculum to align with the industry and focus on innovation, created a strategic and dedicated enrollment‑management division, increased first‑year student support, and reduced debt; and

Whereas, by the summer of 2018, applications had increased by twenty percent and admissions by fourteen percent. Benedict welcomed over seven hundred fifty new students in fall 2018, the largest class in five years. Benedict also transformed into a fiscally stable institution, despite lowering tuition. In presenting the ACE Award, ACE and Fidelity Investments recognized Dr. Artis’ transformative leadership in this process and the positive changes taking place at Benedict College; and

Whereas, proud of Benedict College’s outstanding achievements, the Senate looks with great interest to hearing of further accomplishments by this forward‑looking institution. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and congratulate Benedict College on receiving the 2019 ACE/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis on behalf of Benedict College.

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