**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND LANDER UNIVERSITY FOR THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT THE INSTITUTION HAS HAD ON LEGIONS OF STUDENTS AND ALUMNI, THE COMMUNITY, THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND BEYOND FOR A CENTURY AND A HALF AND TO CONGRATULATE LANDER’S STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND ADMINISTRATION AS THE SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the second month of 2022 marked an incredible milestone in Lander University’s long and distinguished history: the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the institution’s founding on February 12, 1872; and

Whereas, Lander’s story is one of resilience, hope, and faith. Founded during the turbulent Reconstruction era, the university has persevered through two world wars, the Great Depression, and two pandemics to educate the young men and women who represent its story. Its one hundred fifty years are measured in remarkable changes that have reshaped our world, from telephones, automobiles, computers, airplanes, and spaceships to advances in education, business, medicine, and technology that impact the Lander campus every day; and

Whereas, Lander’s founder, the Reverend Samuel Lander, would be amazed by what has been accomplished at Lander over the past century and a half, and, undoubtedly, he would be extremely proud of the university as it is today; and

Whereas, at a time when higher education enrollment nationwide is declining, Lander’s enrollment is climbing, with 91% of its students hailing from the Palmetto State. Its academic programs are expanding, including robust online and graduate programs that reach students across the nation. Lander’s endowment is flourishing as private giving to the university reaches an all‑time high. The school’s campus is growing, as well, with the addition of new state‑of‑the‑art facilities that will support current and future academic programs and student life; and

Whereas, throughout 2022, various events will celebrate Lander’s educational legacy, which honors the students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who have been, and continue to be, the heart of the university. The yearlong calendar of events began with a special birthday celebration planned for Lander students on February 8. Lander’s Day of Giving took place February 11‑12, featuring a 1,872‑minute campaign to support scholarships and the university’s most critical needs. On February 12, the school held its annual class ring ceremony, a tradition that recognizes students’ academic achievements and symbolizes the significant bond that exists among alumni. That same afternoon, the Lander Bearcats hosted a full lineup of home games, which also featured some Founder’s Day fun and surprises; and

Whereas, in addition, exhibits, lectures, performances, arts and cultural events, socials, a formal gala, and even a fireworks spectacular are planned for the coming year, as well as the launch of a new capital campaign that will help build the foundation for Lander University’s next successful one hundred fifty years; and

Whereas, grateful for Lander University’s outstanding service in educating our youth, the members of the South Carolina Senate extend to this fine institution best wishes for many more years of serving as a blessing and a beacon of light to multitudes. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and commend Lander University for the transformative impact the institution has had on legions of students and alumni, the community, the State of South Carolina, and beyond for a century and a half and congratulate Lander’s students, alumni, faculty, and administration as the school celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Richard E. Cosentino, president of Lander University, on behalf of the university.

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