SLS 16RS-2808 **ORIGINAL**

2016 Regular Session

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY SENATORS COLOMB, BARROW, HEWITT, MIZELL AND PETERSON AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, CARPENTER, DAVIS, EMERSON, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HORTON, JACKSON, NANCY LANDRY, MARCELLE, MORENO, NORTON, SMITH, STOKES AND WHITE

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Elise Marie LaFleur upon being selected for a Women of Excellence Award and a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2 To commend Elise Marie LaFleur upon her receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award 3 from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation in the category of High School Women of Excellence and upon being a recipient of a Louisiana Legislative 4 5 Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship. WHEREAS, Elise Marie LaFleur of Abbeville's St. Thomas More Catholic High 6 7 School exhibited a passion for involvement at a very young age as she was elected an officer 8 in her school's 4-H Club each year in middle school; and 9 WHEREAS, as soon as Elise began high school, she earned the respect of her peers 10 by being elected freshmen class representative on the student council, and she also joined 11 the Ambassadors Team, Campus Ministry, the Speech & Debate Team, and the Beta Club where she remained a member her entire four years of high school, while also serving on the 12 13 Louisiana State 4-H Citizenship Board as a camp coordinator and spearheaded a citizenship camp for a group of over seventy-five middle schoolers; and 14 WHEREAS, Elise discovered in her freshmen year her favorite pastime for the rest 15 of her high school career would be speech and debate, and she competed in extemporaneous 16 17 speaking during the entirety of her first year of high school at speech and debate tournaments 18 all over Louisiana; Elise was thrilled when she qualified in May of 2013 for the National

Catholic Forensic League Tournament; and

WHEREAS, during the rest of her high school years, Elise also qualified for national competition at the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament, the Glenbrook Tournament, and the Harvard National Forensics Tournament in both extemporaneous speaking and congressional debate; and

WHEREAS, using the skills she learned in speech and debate, Elise found multiple ways to give back to her community, including with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council in Lafayette, and through monthly meetings with the mayor starting her junior year, Elise was able to comment on issues of importance to youth in Lafayette Parish to the mayor with other like-minded peers; and

WHEREAS, beginning her senior year, Elise was a member of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council which opportunity furthered her interest in solving issues for youth, but this time on a statewide scale; and

WHEREAS, in her local community, Elise found a way to give back through being on the marketing committee for a charity music festival that St. Thomas More's junior class puts on each year called "Hopefest", and made numerous phone calls, knocked on doors, and networked to help raise money for Options, the special needs program at St. Thomas More and Healing House, a safe place for children who are grieving a major loss in their life due to death; through these experiences, Elise's interest in social justice and political awareness continued to grow; and

WHEREAS, despite being a part of these activities and many others, Elise maintained a 3.8 GPA throughout her high school career and, in addition to being selected as a St. Thomas More Top Cat award recipient two times, was also highlighted as a Breakfast of Champions recipient, a State Foreign Languages Festival honoree, a Louisiana High School Speech League Impromptu Speaking runner-up state champion, a Writes of Spring (Poetry) Award recipient, a State Rally Girls Vocal Solo (High Voices) superior rating recipient, St. Thomas More's La. Girls State delegate, and a Tulane Book Award recipient, and, in her senior year, earned a National Beta Club Scholarship and was honored with a place on the Louisiana All State Congressional Debate Team; and

WHEREAS, Elise will be attending the Catholic University of America in

1 Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2016 where she plans to double-major in Politics and Media 2 Studies with aspirations of working on Capitol Hill in the near future; and 3 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation created the 4 Women of Excellence Awards to recognize and honor extraordinary women of excellence 5 across the state for their outstanding achievements and contributions; and WHEREAS, recipients of the Women of Excellence Awards exhibit characteristics 6 7 of integrity and professionalism, personify excellence in their area of specialty, and are 8 committed to community service to better society as a whole; and 9 WHEREAS, for 2016, there are four categories for the Women of Excellence 10 Awards: College Women of Excellence, High School Women of Excellence, Louisiana Hero 11 of Excellence, and Nonprofit of Excellence; and 12 WHEREAS, the recipients of the 2016 Women of Excellence Awards are being 13 recognized at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Women of 14 Excellence Awards & Scholarships Ceremony and Reception on Tuesday, May 24, 2016; 15 and 16 WHEREAS, Elise Marie LaFleur has been named a recipient of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award in the category of High School Women of Excellence and also is a 17 18 recipient of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship for her 19 accomplishments and personification of excellence in integrity, character, academics, 20 leadership, and community service; and 21 WHEREAS, Elise Marie LaFleur merits a sincere and heartfelt measure of 22 commendation for her dedication to excellence and her outstanding accomplishments, and 23 it is appropriate for the Legislature of Louisiana to commend Elise Marie LaFleur upon her 24 receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's 25 Caucus Foundation and of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 26 27 commend Elise Marie LaFleur upon her receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation in the category of High School 28 Women of Excellence and upon her receipt of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus 29

Foundation Scholarship; does hereby recognize and record for posterity her singular

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1 contributions to the citizens of Louisiana; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for

the tremendous pride and honor that she brings to her community and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to

4 Elise Marie LaFleur.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST 2016 Regular Session

Colomb

Commends Elise Marie LaFleur upon her receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation in the category of High School Women of Excellence and a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship.