

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112

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

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Rachel Christina Oatis upon her receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation in the category of College Women of Excellence and upon being a recipient of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship.

WHEREAS, Rachel Christina Oatis, a native of Litcher, Louisiana, is currently a sophomore political science major completing her undergraduate studies at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Reverend Dr. Charles and Rolinda Oatis, she attended Litcher High School, graduating with honors while serving as the youngest person in her community to pass an ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Oatis is the founder of the St. James Parish Youth Commission in which young people learn the inner workings of local government; and

WHEREAS, over the course of one year, she has served as a student volunteer for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, lead chapel assistant for Sisters Chapel, a voter registration aide on Saturdays, and served as an intern for Congressman John Lewis, Georgia's 5th Congressional District Representative; and

WHEREAS, on campus she is very active in Spelman's Student Ambassador Organization and serves as a public speaker for some of the college's esteemed events; and

WHEREAS, Rachel traveled to Tobago, Trinidad for a cultural enrichment engagement to learn behavior and leadership styles of Caribbean women serving in government and academics; participated in the Southern University Law Center's Civil Rights Restorative Justice Project, through which she conducted research on policy initiatives on anti-civil rights violence in the United States from the 1930s to 1950s; and

WHEREAS, Rachel is also a participant in Spelman's Independent Scholars Interdisciplinary Study Program, where she is documenting oral histories through interviewing elderly African-American women; and

WHEREAS, through these and other service learning opportunities, she finds that she has grown in the areas of teamwork, problem solving and action planning, and working hands-on in the community has fostered her empathy and self-efficacy and has allowed her to take an active role in helping to shape her community and campus life; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation created the Women of Excellence Awards to recognize and honor extraordinary women across the state for their outstanding achievements and contributions; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the Women of Excellence Awards exhibit characteristics of integrity and professionalism, personify excellence in their area of specialty, and are committed to community service to better society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, for 2016, there are four categories for the Women of Excellence Awards: College Women of Excellence, High School Women of Excellence, Louisiana Hero of Excellence, and Nonprofit of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, the recipients of the 2016 Women of Excellence Awards are being recognized at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Women of Excellence Awards & Scholarships Ceremony and Reception on Tuesday, May 24, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Christina Oatis has been named a recipient of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award in the category of College Women of Excellence and is also a recipient of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship for her accomplishments and personification of excellence in integrity, character, academics, leadership, and community service; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Christina Oatis merits a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation for her dedication to excellence and her outstanding accomplishments, and it is appropriate for the Legislature of Louisiana to commend Rachel Christina Oatis upon her receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation and a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Rachel Christina Oatis upon her receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation in the category of College Women of Excellence and upon her receipt of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship; does hereby recognize and record for posterity her singular 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 Rachel Christina Oatis.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES