SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 135

BY SENATOR HEWITT

A RESOLUTION

To recognize and highly commend the Louisiana teams that participated in the 2017 FIRST

World Championship in Houston, Texas.

WHEREAS, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a national nonprofit organization that operates afterschool robotics programs for young people ages six to eighteen in the United States and internationally, impacting more than 400,000 young people around the world each year; and

WHEREAS, ten years of evaluation data document that FIRST participants show a statistically significant higher interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), increased involvement in STEM-related activities, greater STEM identity, higher levels of STEM knowledge, and greater interest in STEM careers than students who do not participate, and the impact is even greater for female students; and

WHEREAS, FIRST participants are more motivated to do well in school, more likely to take a challenging math or science course, and show improved problem solving, time management, conflict resolution, and communication skills; and

WHEREAS, FIRST alumni express a greater interest in going to college and are twice as likely to major in science or engineering as other students; and

WHEREAS, FIRST robotics competitions are designed to foster a love of science and engineering and inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology; and

WHEREAS, a FIRST robotics competition is as close to real-world engineering as a student can get, combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology (the ultimate "Sport for the Mind"), with participants calling it "the hardest fun you'll ever have"; and

WHEREAS, the annual FIRST Championship is the culminating event for FIRST participants with team activities, efforts, and competitions held throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, ten teams from Louisiana, with their mentors, traveled to Houston, Texas, in April 2017, to participate in the 2017 FIRST Championship activities and pit their skills and mental agility against the best and brightest from across the United States and the globe; and

WHEREAS, these FIRST teams and their mentors deserve recognition and respect for their hard work, dedication, commitment, love of science and technology, and quest for excellence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and highly commend the Louisiana teams that participated in the 2017 FIRST Championship in Houston, Texas, as follows:

(1)   Panthrobotics, FIRST Robotics Team 3337

Woodlawn High School, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Daniel Eiland, Team Mentor

(2)   Wildcat Robotics, FIRST Robotics Team 3039

Destrehan High School, Destrehan, Louisiana

Brian Young, Team Mentor

(3)   FHS Robodawgs, FIRST Robotics Team 2221

Fontainebleau High School, Mandeville, Louisiana

Tracy Hoffman, Team Mentor

(4)   Team Combustion, FIRST Robotics Team 1912

North Shore High School and Salmen High School, Slidell, Louisiana

Clark Rowley, Team Mentor

(5)   Team Phenomena, FIRST Robotics Team 3616

Comeaux High School, Lafayette High School, and Home School Students

Lafayette, Louisiana

Lisa Rainey, Team Mentor

(6)   KnightVision, FIRST Robotics Team 3991

Episcopal High School, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Bruce Bowman, Team Mentor

(7)   S. S. Promethius, FIRST Robotics Team 2992

Mandeville High School, Mandeville, Louisiana

Jaclyn Duhe', Team Mentor

(8)   Dark Matter, FIRST Tech Challenge Team 10337

Mandeville Jr. High School, Mandeville, Louisiana

Tracy Hoffman, Team Mentor

(9)   Redfish Robotics, FIRST Tech Challenge Team 9958

Slidell, Louisiana

Mike Clark, Team Mentor

(10)   Bayou Builders, FIRST LEGO League Team 4043

Louisiana Children's Discovery Center, Hammond, Louisiana

Benjamin Williams, Team Mentor

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE