

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 225

BY SENATOR GATTI

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Cyber Innovation Center and Executive Director Craig Spohn on the Regional Autonomous Robotics Circuit.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Cyber Innovation Center and Executive Director Craig Spohn on the
3 Regional Autonomous Robotics Circuit.

4 WHEREAS, in 2008, two teachers from Bossier Parish schools, Richard Warren
5 (Benton Middle School) and Marvin Nelson (Benton High School), recognized their
6 students' desire for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and cyber
7 education beyond the classroom and began an annual robotics competition; and

8 WHEREAS, with their vision and hard work, combined with support from Bossier
9 Parish schools' administration, the Northwest Louisiana Autonomous Robotics Competition
10 (NWLA ARC) was born and this event was held each May at Benton Middle School and
11 served over two hundred students; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2010, the NWLA ARC committee requested the Cyber Innovation
13 Center (CIC) to sponsor the event; and

14 WHEREAS, CIC leadership recognized the value of the program and the potential
15 of engaging a greater number of students through a strategic partnership; and

16 WHEREAS, in order to help expand STEM and cyber learning opportunities in the
17 region, the CIC partnered with the founding schools to host the 2010 and 2011 competitions
18 and participation grew each year; and

1 WHEREAS, during this time, the CIC also received requests from both school
2 administrators and teachers for more opportunities to engage their students in hands-on
3 STEM and cyber learning throughout the academic school year; and

4 WHEREAS, the CIC offered to expand the annual competition to a circuit of
5 competitions scheduled each fall, winter, and spring, and took the lead on the administrative
6 responsibilities; and

7 WHEREAS, the Regional Autonomous Robotics Circuit (RARC) kicked off in
8 September 2011 in Bossier City, Louisiana, with thirty-seven different schools from seven
9 parishes participating in the 2011-2012 RARC with 508 students in grades 4-12 benefitting
10 from the program; and

11 WHEREAS, the 2012-2013 RARC experienced a 41% increase in participation over
12 the previous year with over 825 elementary, middle, and high school students from 48
13 schools participating; and

14 WHEREAS, RARC reached a milestone during the 2013-2014 school year with
15 1,000 students impacted in a single school year; and

16 WHEREAS, the RARC continues to grow not only in attendance but in also the
17 variety of students who benefit and the number of parishes/counties served; and

18 WHEREAS, teams from afterschool and homeschool programs as well as charter
19 schools have joined the public and private school teams at the competitions; and

20 WHEREAS, additionally, RARC in Northwest Louisiana, originally open to students
21 in grades 4-12, now includes students in third grade and will begin allowing students in
22 second grade to compete next year; and

23 WHEREAS, this STEM and cyber program is reaching students earlier and earlier
24 and offering an opportunity for students to remain engaged at each grade level; and

25 WHEREAS, the integrated competition guidelines align with Louisiana curricula
26 standards, and the competitions build upon one another so students can enhance and hone
27 their skills throughout the school year; and

28 WHEREAS, the CIC is working with school districts from other communities in
29 order to expand the RARC "footprint"; and communities in South Carolina and Arkansas
30 have piloted RARC, and RARC South Louisiana (Baton Rouge) and RARC Northeast

