

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 139

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Dr. Tara P. Smith on receiving the 2024 National Impact Award from the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Dr. Tara P. Smith on receiving the 2024 National Impact Award from the
3 National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Tara P. Smith, currently serving as the executive associate vice
5 president and director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, has been honored by
6 the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group with the 2024 National Impact Award; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Smith's journey began as an entomology graduate student at LSU,
8 where she delved into integrated pest management for sweet potato soil insects, and her
9 unwavering commitment led her to become a vital member of the National Sweetpotato
10 Collaborators Group; and

11 WHEREAS, in her role as the state sweet potato specialist for Louisiana, Dr. Smith
12 has spent seventeen years working on research and extension projects related to sweet
13 potatoes, enhancing producers' crop yields through knowledge gained from AgCenter
14 research; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Smith's impact extends beyond research, as she effectively
16 communicates the findings of her colleagues to the industry, bridging the gap between
17 research and practical application; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Smith assumed the position of interim executive associate vice
19 president of the AgCenter and director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service in
20 December 2022, roles that became permanent in April 2023, solidifying her commitment to
21 supporting the sweet potato industry both in Louisiana and nationally; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Smith continues her work as the research coordinator for the Sweet
2 Potato Research Station, thereby advancing sweet potato cultivation practices; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Smith's early exposure and networking with the sweet potato
4 industry and the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group have been foundational to her
5 success, inspiring all who work in this vital field; and

6 WHEREAS, the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group, formed in 1939, fosters
7 open sharing of sweet potato research among university, industry, and government
8 representatives from twenty-one states and five other countries.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
10 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Tara P. Smith on receiving the 2024
11 National Impact Award from the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group and does hereby
12 recognize her outstanding contributions to sweet potato agriculture, her leadership, and her
13 unwavering commitment to the industry and its growth.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Commends Dr. Tara P. Smith on receiving the 2024 National Impact Award from the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group.