

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 197

BY SENATOR APPEL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to study viable options for the private colleges and universities to contribute to meeting the workforce gap of college completions and degrees needed for Louisiana four- and five-star jobs.

WHEREAS, Louisiana is in the midst of an economic renaissance with eighty thousand new jobs and more than fifty billion dollars in private capital added since 2008; and

WHEREAS, the next challenge is to ensure that Louisiana has the skilled workforce to fill these jobs of the future; and

WHEREAS, economists have recently said that they have never seen an industrial expansion like the one underway in Louisiana but have also warned that Louisiana must do a better job training skilled workers that will be needed to fill the demand for jobs at the major industrial and high tech projects coming to Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature created the Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy Plan to strengthen the collaboration between public higher education, economic development, and workforce commission; and

WHEREAS, the degree production in four- and five-star jobs as indicated by the Louisiana Workforce Commission include degrees in computer and information science, engineering, biological and physical sciences, finance and accounting, and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's private colleges and universities currently produce over three thousand graduates in these same areas; and

WHEREAS, the private colleges and universities are a resource for the public good of the State.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities study viable options that the private colleges and universities might undertake to help close the workforce gap in high demand four- and five-star jobs as well as strengthen

collaboration with public higher education, economic development, and workforce commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities submit a written report to the Senate and House committees on education by March 1, 2015, regarding options and recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE