SLS 18RS-4133

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 |
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| 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 |
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| 1 | WHEREAS, during this time, the CIC also received requests from both school |
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| 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 |

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| 1 | Louisiana (Ruston/Monroe) have been active for the last two years; and these additional |
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| 2 | locations have allowed RARC to reach more students while keeping costs to a minimum; |
| 3 | and |
| 4 | WHEREAS, the elementary division (grades 3-5) is now the largest division with |
| 5 | more registered teams than the middle and high school divisions; and |
| 6 | WHEREAS, the elementary division has 37% female participation while the high |
| 7 | school division has female participation at 41%; and |
| 8 | WHEREAS, beginning in 2017-2018, some middle school teams chose to compete |
| 9 | in the high school division and won trophies; and |
| 10 | WHEREAS, including this year, RARC Northwest Louisiana has presented |
| 11 | approximately \$34,275 in technology awards to winning schools in the last seven years. |
| 12 | THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana |
| 13 | does hereby commend the Cyber Innovation Center (CIC) and Executive Director Craig |
| 14 | Spohn on the Regional Autonomous Robotics Circuit. |
| 15 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the |
| 16 | Cyber Innovation Center and Executive Director Craig Spohn. |
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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

SR 225 Original

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