

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR CHABERT

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Christopher F. D'Elia upon being named the first recipient of the Wes Tunnell Lifetime Recognition for Gulf Science and Conservation by the Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative.

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU) has a coastal legacy dating back nearly a century and is at the forefront of coastal and environmental discoveries and research on every continent; and

WHEREAS, more than two hundred faculty equip about one thousand graduates per year with the multidisciplinary tools needed to solve vital coastal issues; and

WHEREAS, LSU is a globally-renowned leader in educating the coastal workforce and provides a gold standard for coastal and environmental expertise; and

WHEREAS, LSU's College of the Coast and Environment is the only college within the university in which the sole focus is the coast and environment, and in which its tenured and tenure-track faculty have the highest per capita research funding at LSU; and

WHEREAS, the College of the Coast and Environment has the highest percentage of undergraduates participating in mentored research within LSU; and

WHEREAS, the college's Coastal Environmental Science program reports that one hundred percent of its undergraduates acquire employment or acceptance into graduate or professional programs within two months of graduation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christopher F. D'Elia, the LSU's longest-serving dean, served as professor and dean of the College of the Coast and Environment since 2009, and has brought passion, experience, and leadership to his position; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Dr. D'Elia expanded the School of the Coast and Environment into a college and established an award-winning outreach program for underserved students from Scotlandville Magnet High School; and

WHEREAS, he has performed outstanding community service in more than twenty professional and outreach organizations, has held numerous research grants, and has authored or coauthored more than sixty scientific publications on the nutrient dynamics of estuaries and coral reefs, science policy and energy, and environment; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Christopher F. D'Elia was recently recognized for his lifetime of dedication and achievement in support of a healthy and sustainable Gulf of Mexico environment and economy by the Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative which honored him as the first recipient of the Wes Tunnell Lifetime Recognition for Gulf Science and Conservation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Christopher F. D'Elia for his lifetime of dedication and achievement in support of a healthy and sustainable Gulf of Mexico environment and economy, and upon being named the first recipient of the Wes Tunnell Lifetime Recognition for Gulf Science and Conservation by the Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to LSU System President F. King Alexander and Dr. Christopher F. D'Elia.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE