

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 78

BY SENATOR HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Dr. Kenneth St. Charles on his leadership and contributions as president and CEO of St. Augustine High School.

WHEREAS, since 2016, Dr. Kenneth St. Charles has served St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, Louisiana, as president and CEO, responsible for ensuring that the school fulfills its mission of providing a quality, well-rounded education to nearly six hundred young men in the traditions of the Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, in this role, he supervises sixty-six faculty and staff members and manages an eight million dollar budget; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership the school has made important strides in the areas of development and fundraising, academics, board and alumni relations, student enrollment, financial management, public relations, and in teacher and staff recruitment and retention; and

WHEREAS, the school has raised a remarkable eleven million dollars, created fifteen new permanently endowed funds and seventy-two annual donor named funds; experienced a five percent enrollment increase for two consecutive years and is on track for a third student enrollment increase; increased the total contributions made on the popular one-day online giving event "Give Purple Day" from \$38,000 in 2016 to \$500,000 in 2020, and most importantly, continued to ensure that one hundred percent of all graduating seniors were eligible and received acceptance offers to the nation's colleges and universities, or to the military or service academies; and

WHEREAS, addressing affordability has been a priority for St. Charles and during his tenure the amount of scholarship support and financial aid awarded to students has

doubled, and in 2021, one hundred percent of the student body received tuition assistance totaling nearly \$1.6 million; and

WHEREAS, new academic initiatives include the very popular Chinese Mandarin language program and the Gifted Academy, a community outreach initiative that serves middle-school age boys; and

WHEREAS, the school is also embarking on several new major construction and renovation projects that will soon lead to the total redesign and renovation of all existing science labs, classrooms, athletic facilities, and the creation of innovative academic STEM curriculum initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the school's music program has experienced tremendous growth and improvements in recent years, most notably a one hundred percent renovation of all music and performance facilities, the funding of student band performance scholarships, a fundraising effort that led to the purchase of one hundred new Marching band uniforms, and a four-year effort that resulted in the complete replacement of all percussion and large brass instruments, with the music program recently receiving national exposure on the acclaimed 60 Minutes news program; and

WHEREAS, the school continues to flourish athletically and in its many extracurricular endeavors as evidenced by its 2021 State Championship basketball team, its numerous outstanding initiatives in major team sports, and recent championship performances in track and field and tennis; and

WHEREAS, the school also boasts an award-winning Film and Media program, as well as Speech and Debate, STEM and Future Business Leaders of America clubs, and a very active and popular Campus Ministry program that pre-COVID led an international trip through the United States and Canada that retraced the historic journey for freedom of the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Dr. St. Charles is married to Lori Robinson St. Charles and has two daughters, Taylor and Kennedy St. Charles; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the current school term, Kenneth St. Charles will leave St. Augustine High School to accept a newly created position of vice president for philanthropy with the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the region's leading philanthropic organization.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Kenneth St. Charles for his outstanding service to St. Augustine High School as president and CEO and does wish him well in his new position as vice president for philanthropy with the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Kenneth St. Charles.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE