

2022 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY SENATOR FIELDS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars as they successfully matriculate throughout the  
3 educational equity initiative program.

4 WHEREAS, the University of Louisiana System (UL System), one of the nation's  
5 largest highest educational systems, developed the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars program to  
6 enhance the academic experience for black males; and

7 WHEREAS, data inspired the UL System when it recognized the disparities  
8 comparing black males to all other demographics in higher educational settings; and

9 WHEREAS, the first cohort of scholars were introduced in June 2021, during the UL  
10 System Black Male Summit, an event designed to address the challenges black male faculty,  
11 staff, and students experience; and

12 WHEREAS, the cohort of scholars comprises eighteen sophomores, two from each  
13 UL System member institution, who are participating in the three-year curate educational  
14 experience; and

15 WHEREAS, the universities and the cohort of scholars are: *Grambling State*  
16 *University*, JaDeric Talbert and Isaiah Farrell; *Louisiana Tech University*, Cameron Green  
17 and Da'Voznik Armstrong; *McNeese State University*, Malaki Johnson and Isaiah E.  
18 Johnson; *Nicholls State University*, John Edmonds and Lance Jones; *Northwestern State*

1 *University, Ebenezer Aggrey and Derrick Varnado; Southeastern Louisiana University,*  
2 *Demille Davis and Dylan James; University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Caleb Franklin and*  
3 *JaCaleb Smith; University of Louisiana at Monroe; Carl Whitlock and Earnest C. Wyatt; and*  
4 *the University of New Orleans, Rabruntae Rachal and Robert Hill; and*

5 WHEREAS, the all black male cohort of scholars is filled with a group of diverse  
6 individuals with varied backgrounds, interests, and degrees of study; and

7 WHEREAS, named for renowned business leader, Reginald F. Lewis, each scholar  
8 is met with high expectations to be diligent and enthusiastic in their academic pursuits, social  
9 engagement, and community service; and

10 WHEREAS, each scholar receives a institutional scholarship covering tuition and  
11 fees and a meal plan thanks to the various food service partners throughout the UL System;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, throughout the past nine months, the scholars have grown exponentially  
14 through countless hours of community service, mentorship sessions, and various personal  
15 development opportunities provided by the UL System; and

16 WHEREAS, in January the scholars kicked off a touring exhibit, "carrying a dream"  
17 which featured artifacts honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life; and

18 WHEREAS, this summer the scholars will be matched with internships designed to  
19 enhance their workplace experience while growing their social network; and

20 WHEREAS, during the cohort's second year, the students will advance their cultural  
21 competency by participating in a study abroad program in France; and

22 WHEREAS, this is just the beginning for the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars as each is  
23 nurtured to greatly contribute to the future of their university, community, and the state of  
24 Louisiana as they pursue their academic dreams.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
26 does hereby commend the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars as they successfully matriculate  
27 through the University of Louisiana System's Reginald F. Lewis Educational Equity  
28 Initiative Program.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each  
30 Reginald F. Lewis Scholars in care of Ms. Cami Geisman, Vice President for External

1 Affairs and Chief of Staff of the University of Louisiana System.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ann S. Brown.

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SR 36 Original	DIGEST 2022 Regular Session	Fields
Commends the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars.		