

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY SENATORS JENKINS AND PRESSLY

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Michelle Yetman for her extraordinary community outreach.

WHEREAS, allied health professionals make up sixty percent of all healthcare workers in the United States with only one percent of clinical allied health professionals working in academic roles involving teaching and research; and

WHEREAS, clinical psychologists play immeasurable roles as allied health professionals; they assess, diagnose, and treat people with various conditions such as depression, anxiety, trauma, and personality disorders; and

WHEREAS, the conditions treated by clinical psychologists are among the most life altering to patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, a clinical psychologist at the LSU Health Shreveport School of Allied Health Professions has gone beyond expectations to improve the lives of those with autistic spectrum disorders through early identification, diagnosis, and promotion of early intervention programs, including assuring Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy is accessible in north Louisiana for patients and their families in need; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Michelle Yetman is a faculty member with outstanding experience and educational credentials, which includes serving as an Associate Professor and Clinical Psychologist at LSU Health Shreveport, an earned PhD in clinical psychology from Gallaudet University in 2000, an APA-approved clinical internship at the University of Maryland Medical Center, in Baltimore, Maryland, and specialized training in the diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorders at the Center for the Atypical Child at the University at Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital; she is a licensed clinical psychologist who is a member of both the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Louisiana Psychological Association (LPA); and

WHEREAS, the faculty member is especially interested in empowering parents in the diagnostic and evaluation process, engaging collaborative, multidisciplinary teams for diagnosis and intervention, supporting and educating families and service providers, and offering technical assistance and outreach to community agencies; and

WHEREAS, ABA therapy is a scientific and evidence-based approach that helps individuals with autism learn and develop skills that will enhance their lives throughout adulthood; and

WHEREAS, in addition to making training available to individuals and their families on the autism spectrum, this trailblazer has created training for first responders who frequently deal with individuals on the autism spectrum; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Yetman trained the entire Shreveport police force on how to interact with individuals with autistic spectrum disorders; and

WHEREAS, she also partnered with the Shreveport police force to establish an opportunity for individuals with autism and other spectrum-related disorders to interact with police in a nonemergent situation in an effort to build trust between individuals with disabilities and first responders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Yetman frequently educates the community through a variety of media channels on how to access resources for their loved ones with disabilities as well as tools to make their lives better.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Michelle Yetman for her extraordinary community outreach to improve the lives of those with disabilities and the nonmedical professionals who deal with individuals with disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Michelle Yetman in appreciation for her efforts.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE