SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 85

BY SENATORS COUSSAN AND BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize CGI Lafayette Center of Excellence on the occasion of its 10th
    anniversary.

WHEREAS, CGI announced the establishment of the CGI Lafayette Louisiana
Onshore Delivery Center, commonly referred to as the Lafayette Center of Excellence, in
Lafayette, Louisiana, in April 2014, and the center recently celebrated its 10th anniversary;
and

WHEREAS, CGI is one of the largest independent information technology and
business process services firms in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Center of Excellence was made possible with the support
of the state department of Louisiana Economic Development, the Lafayette Economic
Development Authority, and its academic partner, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette;
and

WHEREAS, in 2014, CGI committed to hiring 400 employees in a four-year
timeframe with an economic development impact of more than $90M annually; it exceeded
this target, and in 2018 committed to doubling this workforce through 2027 to 800
employees; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Center of Excellence now employs more than 700
professionals with an annual payroll of more than $52M and has exceeded the performance
expectation targets of the partnership year after year; and

WHEREAS, CGI selected Lafayette, a parish with approximately 250,000 people
located in the Acadiana region, for the Lafayette Center of Excellence based on the area's
quality of life, unique cultural heritage, access to a highly skilled regional workforce, strong
business incentives from the state and the Lafayette Economic Development Authority; for

CGI, it is truly a collaboration with business-friendly state and local governments, and strong partnerships with academic institutions; and

WHEREAS, the location of the Lafayette Center of Excellence allows many local graduates to remain in the area to pursue a career in information technology, and has allowed many others to return to Lafayette and the Acadiana area to pursue careers in technology; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Center of Excellence provides world-class information technology systems development and integration services to federal, state, and local governments, as well as health, telecom, financial services, insurance, retail, and manufacturing firms; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Center of Excellence provides custom-tailored training programs in software development, data analytics, cloud engineering, and artificial intelligence, delivered by subject matter experts, including establishing the first software developer apprenticeship in Louisiana, and draws skilled local talent from a feeder system of more than ten colleges and universities, through a strong recruiting network, and regionally sponsored programs; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Center of Excellence, in partnership with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has created an interdisciplinary Capstone program, Project Based Learning curriculum for university students to learn industry-best practices in information technology fields such as cloud engineering and artificial intelligence; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Center of Excellence gives back to the region through their Corporate Social Responsibility program, particularly in the areas of STEM education, serving as trusted advisors for local educators, and introduced more than 15,000 students to date to information technology early in their educational development through the STEM@CGI program focused on demographics underrepresented in information technology fields; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Center of Excellence demonstrates that public-private partnerships, when properly structured, can create and sustain well-paying jobs, enable economic diversification and resilience in the state, and materially impact quality of life within our communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize CGI Lafayette Center of Excellence on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE