

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

A RESOLUTION

To commend Geaux BIG Baton Rouge at Louisiana State University on its third anniversary.

WHEREAS, Geaux BIG Baton Rouge is a volunteer effort by students at Louisiana State University's Baton Rouge campus seeking to unite LSU students with the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the Geaux BIG Baton Rouge program is centered on one big day of service by LSU students giving back to their community with their time and talents employed in various local projects aimed at assisting resident neighbors near campus; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer efforts of LSU students focuses on actual needs by working on projects identified by Baton Rouge residents and nonprofit organizations and vetted by the Geaux BIG staff as important and worthwhile endeavors in areas near the university; and

WHEREAS, Geaux BIG Baton Rouge, in its few years of operation, has worked on projects in Old South Baton Rouge and Mid City, for example, and such project sites have included schools, resident's homes, often improving access, community centers and nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Geaux BIG Baton Rouge is modeled after Texas A&M University's "Big Event", a well-established program that in 2015 involved nearly twenty thousand Aggie students who worked at two thousand job sites; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this program is to heighten awareness in students of the needs of the community beyond campus, impress upon them the impact of volunteer service, and instill in students a commitment to service that will enrich their lives and their community beyond their college years; and

WHEREAS, Geaux BIG's inaugural event in April 2013 involved eight hundred and fifty students working at twenty-nine separate project sites in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, by 2015, the Geaux BIG one day service event placed thirteen hundred students volunteering at seventy-nine sites, providing nearly ninety thousand dollars worth of improvements at these project sites; and

WHEREAS, Geaux BIG Baton Rouge will hold its fourth annual one big day service experience on April 16, 2016, and the organization anticipates significant increases in both the number of students participating and the number of projects; and

WHEREAS, in focusing beyond the university and working to enrich the lives of residents near campus and to improve their communities, Geaux BIG Baton Rouge strives to demonstrate the power of volunteer service and the bringing together of neighbors, both core values in Louisiana and in the nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Geaux BIG Baton Rouge at Louisiana State University on its third anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Alix Perry, Director of Logistics for Geaux BIG Baton Rouge.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE