

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 225

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To commend Thomas Lovince for his more than thirty years of state service, and particularly for his leadership and determination in re-establishing Delgado Sidney Collier, an essential institution of higher learning following the catastrophic damage sustained by the campus as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

WHEREAS, in his more than thirty year career, Thomas Lovince focused on the designing, implementation, evaluation, and administration of information technology solutions in the administrative and academic computing environment for higher education, particularly at Southern University, and his teaching career at both Southern University and at Delgado Community College, beginning in 1985; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Thomas Lovince took the reins of the day-to-day direction for the information technology staff in central and satellite locations for Delgado Community College, an essential institution of higher learning in the Greater New Orleans metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, in his leadership of this essential aspect of learning and communication in the twenty-first century, Thomas Lovince has helped to determine and shape all information technology policies in collaboration with all user communities, in an effort to provide users with accessible and functional information systems; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of this technical world, Thomas Lovince might never have imagined his most challenging job at Delgado Community College, which would be facing the near-total destruction that Hurricane Katrina wrought at the Sidney Collier campus; and

WHEREAS, the designing, building, and opening for classes of the Sidney Collier campus was paramount to Thomas Lovince, and in July, 2013 he was named executive dean of Delgado Sidney Collier; at the time of his appointment, the campus had remained closed since 2005; and

WHEREAS, to rebuild and revitalize what Mr. Lovince saw as an essential post-secondary educational campus, was a daunting task, but he accepted the challenge, and in April 2015, ground was broken on the reconstruction of this campus, at which classes were again held beginning on Monday, August 18, 2014, a mere thirteen and one-half months following Lovince's appointment as executive dean; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the public would be aware of the reopening of the campus and what educational opportunities would be available, Mr. Lovince conducted ten community outreach meetings for the public, strove to build foundational relationships with community organizers, and cohosted a weekly radio program to promote the re-opening of the campus; and

WHEREAS, technical classes began that September 2014, and they opened with enrollment of more than three hundred credit hour students beginning their studies at Sidney Collier with an additional seventy-five adult basic education students taking advantage of this opportunity to enrich their educational experience; and

WHEREAS, a vital educational resource devastated by Hurricane Katrina reopened to serve the community in need of flexible and accessible higher education opportunities, including technical and skilled craft training offerings; Sidney Collier owes its rejuvenation largely to one man, Thomas Lovince, a man deeply committed to restoring a community resource devastated by damage from Hurricane Katrina, who was willing to work tirelessly to ensure that the Sidney Collier campus would, again, serve its community as an unparalleled resource.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Thomas Lovince for his more than thirty years of state service, and particularly for his leadership and determination in reestablishing Delgado Sidney Collier, an institution of higher learning following the catastrophic damage sustained by the campus as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Thomas Lovince.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE