

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 263

BY SENATORS BARROW, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To commend Southern University (SU) Women's Basketball team and Head Coach Carlos Funchess on an outstanding season.

WHEREAS, during the previous thirteen seasons, Carlos Funchess served as associate head coach under former Head Coach Sandy Pugh, until he was named her successor during the summer of 2018, after which the Southern University Women's Basketball program has not missed a step; and

WHEREAS, Carlos Funchess holds the distinction of being the first coach in the program's history to win the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Regular Season outright, the SWAC Tournament Title, and the SWAC Coach of the Year award in his first season; and

WHEREAS, his twenty wins joins Herman Hartman as first-year coaches to win twenty or more games in their first season as head coach in the program's history; and

WHEREAS, Southern University clinched the SWAC Regular Season title with a dominant 60-49 road win over Texas Southern in Houston to capture back-to-back conference championships for the second time in the program's history as a member of the SWAC, and the school's third regular season title in the last four years; and

WHEREAS, with a gutsy 45-41 win over Jackson State University in the SWAC Tournament Championship on March 16, 2019, Coach Funchess led SU Women's Basketball team to the program's fifth SWAC Tournament Title and fifth National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament appearance; and

WHEREAS, Friday, March 22, 2019, marked the seventeen year anniversary of Southern University's first NCAA Women's tournament appearance in 2002 in which Southern won the SWAC Regular Season and Tournament Titles, earned the program's first NCAA bid, and faced Colorado in the West Region as a 14-seed, the highest seed in SU tournament history; and

WHEREAS, Southern University made its fifth NCAA Women's Tournament appearance and the program's first trip since meeting top-seeded University of Connecticut (UConn) in 2010, in Norfolk, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 season marks the second time in SU Women's Basketball history that the team captured SWAC Regular Season, SWAC Tournament Title, and the league's Coach of the Year award (Sandy Pugh in 2002, Carlos Funchess in 2019); and

WHEREAS, after leading the women's basketball program to both the SWAC regular season and tournament championships, first year Head Coach Carlos Funchess earned the 2019 SWAC Coach of the Year award and received the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's (WBCA) top honor, winning the WBCA Division I Maggie Dixon Rookie Coach of the Year award.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Southern University Women's Basketball team and Head Coach Carlos Funchess on an outstanding season and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride they have brought to the Southern University System, SU, the Baton Rouge community, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Head Coach Carlos Funchess.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE