

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY SENATOR APPEL

POSTSECONDARY ED. Requests the Board of Regents to develop a strategy to attract more students to and graduate more students in STEM disciplines.

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to develop a strategy to attract more students to, and graduate more students from, the state's colleges and universities in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

WHEREAS, the scientific, technological, and engineering advances of the 20<sup>th</sup> century fueled the economic dominance of the United States; and

WHEREAS, as we moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it became clear that our economic preeminence was threatened as other countries became more educated and started gaining economic ground, national leaders began calling for increased recruitment of students to STEM fields of study; and

WHEREAS, careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics serve to increase the state's and the nation's capacity for innovation as it engenders the creation of new ideas, companies, and industries; and

WHEREAS, the urgent need for improved education in STEM disciplines is evidenced by the decreasing percentage of students entering and completing STEM degrees in postsecondary educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, the United States produces fewer STEM graduates relative to other economically developed countries; and

1           WHEREAS, according to the January 2012, U.S. Department of Commerce report,  
2           "The Competitiveness and Innovative Capacity of the United States", only fifty percent of  
3           students who start college in a STEM major graduate with a STEM related degree.

4           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
5           does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to develop a strategy to attract more  
6           students to, and graduate more students from, the state's colleges and universities in the  
7           fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

8           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board submit a written report of its findings  
9           and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education not later than March 1, 2013.

10          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
11          chairman of the Board of Regents and the commissioner of higher education.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

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DIGEST

Appel

SR No. 120

Requests the Board of Regents to develop a strategy to attract more students to, and graduate more students from, the state's colleges and universities in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Requires submission of a written report of findings and recommendations to the Senate Education Committee not later than March 1, 2013.