

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY SENATOR APPEL

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 20th century fueled the economic dominance of the United States; and

WHEREAS, as we moved into the 21st 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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 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).

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

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE