

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 138

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To commend and honor Dr. Leodrey Williams on his retirement from Southern University.

WHEREAS, Dr. Leodrey Williams, Chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, is a 1961 graduate of Southern University in Vocational Agriculture Education; and

WHEREAS, after more than three years of military service, he began his distinguished career with Louisiana State University in the Baton Rouge Cooperative Extension Service in January 1965 serving as an Assistant Associate County Agent in Richland Parish, leading in the areas of agricultural crop production and community resource development; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, he was employed by the Southern University Cooperative Extension Program as a Specialist in Agricultural Programs where he helped to build and shape the new program; and

WHEREAS, in this capacity he assisted in staffing and launching the Cooperative Extension Program throughout the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Williams earned his Master of Science and Doctorate of Education degrees at LSU in 1970 and 1975 respectively; and

WHEREAS, after five years as an Agriculture Specialist, he returned to Louisiana State University as director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights, and served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Extension and International Education; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Chancellor Williams was employed as Administrator of the Cooperative Extension Program at Southern University and in 1991, he was asked to co-chair a national task force that took an in-depth look at America's Cooperative Extension System where he identified problems that needed to be addressed and recommended solutions; and

WHEREAS, he was subsequently appointed Special Assistant for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Extension Administrator; and

WHEREAS, in just five months he was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture as

the National Director of Extension where he supervised a staff of 207 professionals, and led the Cooperative Extension System involving 105 land-grant colleges and universities in all 50 states and the U. S. Territories; and

WHEREAS, he managed an appropriated budget of over \$436 million, plus an additional \$30 million in special funding from other departments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, during the reorganization of government in 1994 and merger of the Cooperative Extension Service and the Cooperative State Research Service, Chancellor Williams was appointed Associate Administrator of the newly formed agency, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, with a budget of over \$1 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, he held this position until he returned as the State Extension Administrator at Southern University in July 1995; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Williams is the first chancellor of the newly developed Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC), the fifth campus of the Southern University System and has been in this position for the last fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Williams has served in several professional capacities on numerous boards and commissions that focus on higher education and the educational delivery system of land-grant colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, he was also a consultant to the governments of Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, and Republic of South Africa in the areas of extension administration, and adult, and continuing education; and

WHEREAS, he has assisted in developing a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of Agriculture and the Republic of South Africa Ministry of Agriculture, delineated needs and strategies for USDA agencies and U. S. Land-Grant Universities to provide assistance to development efforts in South Africa; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Williams has also served as a delegation leader and representative of scientists from Southern University, USDA, and other universities in the areas of urban forestry and natural resources in the People's Republic of China, Honduras, and Liberia where he assisted in developing strategies for university collaboration and exchange, along

with addressing concerns and issues facing the urban population; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Williams has committed fifty years of his life to the students of Southern University and the state of Louisiana while providing extraordinary leadership both nationally and internationally in the area of Agricultural Research and Development.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and honor Chancellor Leodrey Williams on his retirement from Southern University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Chancellor Leodrey Williams.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE