

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY SENATOR PETERSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend the first cohort of Fellows on their successful completion of the Louisiana Education Policy Fellowship Program coordinated by Orleans Public Education Network as a part of the Institute for Educational Leadership.

WHEREAS, Orleans Public Education Network first convened in late 2007, when several groups including Committee for a Better New Orleans, the Greater New Orleans Education Foundation, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, the Louisiana Justice Institute, and the Children's Defense Fund began to meet with the goal of framing a common theme for public schools; and

WHEREAS, navigating New Orleans' storied racial divide and always engaging transparency in the process, the groups determined in conjunction that an engaged and informed public was the most effective path to building student success and equity in a historically troubled landscape; and

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN) members determined that the central aim of the work would be creating civic capacity in public education; and

WHEREAS, OPEN created the Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) which prepares high potential professionals for leadership positions in education and related policy fields; and

WHEREAS, EPFP is Louisiana's only professional development program for emerging leaders seeking to improve outcomes for children and youth through sound public policy, and in 2015, Louisiana joined the ranks of fourteen other states across the United States in welcoming EPFP to our community; and

WHEREAS, the program allows the Fellows to remain in their full-time positions and use their work environment as the context for examining important leadership and policy issues in their state and in the nation; and

WHEREAS, through EPFP's Continuing Education Units, states develop an extensive network of professionals capable of sustaining and acting on a coherent policy dialogue around significant issues in education; and

WHEREAS, organizations build the human capital and professional networks to enable them to compete effectively in a strategic environment, and individuals develop their leadership potential, knowledge of the policy process, and ability to add value to their organizations at a strategic level; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1964, EPFP has produced nearly eight thousand alumni who now lead at high levels in all sectors of American life, within and outside education; and

WHEREAS, the inaugural class of Fellows coordinated by Orleans Public Education Network has successfully graduated; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend and congratulate Brian Adams with Teach For America South Louisiana, Marsha Broussard with Louisiana Public Health Institute, Sherdren Burnside with Journey Ninth Ward Assembly of God, Lisa French with Louisiana Department of Education, Dr. Lisa Green-Derry with Urban Strategies, Inc., Susan Kahn with University of Louisiana Lafayette, Sara Massey with Communities in Schools New Orleans, Zakenya Perry Neely with Orleans Public Education Network, and Brionne Stewart with Young Audiences Charter School on being chosen to participate in the Education Policy Fellowship Program inaugural class and for successfully completing the fellowship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate the first cohort of Fellows and wish them much luck in their educational leadership endeavors across our great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Julia Ramsey, Communications Coordinator at Orleans Public Education Network.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE