

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARY CARTER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Tulane University students John Robertson, Otto Lyon, Benjamin Lewson, Matthew Gorban, Ethan Gasta, Maxwell Woody, and Afsheen Sajjadi upon their selection as winners of NASA's 2017 BIG Idea Challenge competition.

WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is widely regarded as the finest space exploration organization in the world and has an exceptional reputation; and

WHEREAS, NASA hosts the BIG Idea Challenge, which is intended to produce designs of crucial importance to manned spaceflight; and

WHEREAS, twenty-nine teams from top national universities submitted designs to the BIG Idea Challenge competition; and

WHEREAS, the group of students representing Tulane designed a revolutionary solar electric propulsion cargo transport spacecraft, called "The Sunflower", and submitted their design to the BIG Idea Challenge competition in November of 2016; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2016, the students were selected to be among five finalist teams and were invited to present their design before a panel of distinguished judges at NASA's Langley research facility in Hampton, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the judges selected the Tulane team and their design as the winner of the BIG Idea Challenge competition; and

WHEREAS, as a result of their victory, five paid NASA summer internships have been awarded to team members, which will allow the students to work in NASA facilities across the country; and

WHEREAS, the team intends to continue to develop the Sunflower design and will present its research on the design at the American Institute of Aerospace and Aeronautics conference and submit articles to peer-reviewed aerospace engineering journals; and

WHEREAS, through their victory in the BIG Idea Challenge competition, these students have established a Tulane University and Louisiana presence at NASA that will benefit the institution and the state for years to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend John Robertson, Otto Lyon, Benjamin Lewson, Matthew Gorban, Ethan Gasta, Maxwell Woody, and Afsheen Sajjadi upon their selection as winners of NASA's BIG Idea Challenge competition and their subsequent internship awards; does hereby recognize and record for posterity their extraordinary contributions to spaceflight, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Tulane University, and the state of Louisiana; and does hereby wish them every measure of continued success and happiness in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to John Robertson, Otto Lyon, Benjamin Lewson, Matthew Gorban, Ethan Gasta, Maxwell Woody, and Afsheen Sajjadi.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE