

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars of the University of Louisiana System.

WHEREAS, the University of Louisiana System created the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars program to enhance the collegiate academic experience for black males after reviewing data that highlighted the various disparities between black males and all other students in a higher education setting; and

WHEREAS, the program sets high expectations for its scholars, particularly maintaining diligence and enthusiasm throughout all academic pursuits, social engagements, and community service events; each scholar receives an institutional scholarship covering tuition and fees; they also receive a meal plan as a result of the various food service partnerships throughout the system; and

WHEREAS, the first group of Reginald F. Lewis Scholars were introduced last June during the 2021 University of Louisiana System Black Male Summit, an event designed to address the challenges that the system's black male faculty, staff, and students experience; and

WHEREAS, eighteen sophomores comprise the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars, including two from each University of Louisiana member institution, who are participating in the three-year curated educational experience; and

WHEREAS, although the group is made up entirely of black males, it is a diverse group of individuals from varying backgrounds, interests, and degrees of study; over the last nine months, the scholars have undergone tremendous growth through countless hours of community service, mentorship sessions, and a variety of personal development opportunities provided by the university system; and

WHEREAS, this January, the scholars kicked off a touring exhibit titled "Carrying A Dream" that features artifacts from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life; this summer, they will be given internships that are designed to enhance their workplace experience while also providing networking opportunities; during their second year, the scholar's will advance their cultural competency by participating in a study abroad program in France; and

WHEREAS, in less than a year, the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars program has proven its immense value to black men in the University of Louisiana System and to the system as a whole; these inspiring young men are most deserving of recognition for their role in helping make this program a success.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars; does hereby recognize these eighteen young men in the University of Louisiana System for paving the way for future Reginald F. Lewis Scholars; does hereby further recognize the University of Louisiana System for providing a program geared towards the unique needs of black male college students; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that these scholars continue to enjoy great prosperity as they lay the foundation for an incredibly promising program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES