

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend the 2021-2022 Inspiring Health Justice Residents and scholar-in-residence on their residency collaboration of DESPAIR-ity: The Call of History to Pull Us Forward.

WHEREAS, the mission of the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center (MHHDRRC) at Dillard University is to take a comprehensive approach to advancing research across disciplinary areas, to enhance and promote coordination and collaboration throughout the scientific community, and to improve the overall quality of health for racial and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, A Studio in the Woods, a program of Tulane University's ByWater Institute, is one of the leading artistic and academic residency programs in the Gulf South region, fostering creative responses to the challenges of our time by providing retreat to artists, scholars, and the public; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration focuses on inequities in both our past and present, and the responsibility we all have going forward toward awareness, education, and transformation; and

WHEREAS, Kristi L. Anderson, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), developed the Health Disparities Grant Program for the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine with the Interim Chancellor for the School of Medicine and the Associate Dean for Research in response to the national call of awareness to and elimination of healthcare disparities and the understanding and movement toward diversity, equity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, during the Fall 2021 semester and the entire Spring 2022 semester, Dr. Kristi Anderson, scholar-in-residence, has been working with four incredible Dillard University artists-in-residence: Karen Grant-Anderson (Music), Zaria Ivory (Music),

William Shelton (English), and Nailah Starks (English); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kristi L. Anderson received her doctoral degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) in the College of Health Sciences with the concentration of systemic studies, which has origins in marriage and family therapy, focusing on the diverse principles of transform and change; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Anderson represented ULM in Berlin, Germany, where she was selected to study in Hanover, Germany; she also participated as a student member of the International Society for the Systems Sciences; she was nominated for Who's Who Among Universities and Colleges and she was also inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, she currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Research for the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Sciences Center, Lafayette, Louisiana Campus and, in her role, she provides oversight of the accreditation of graduate medical education (GME) and undergraduate medical education (UME) programs on the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Lafayette campus, working collaboratively with GME and UME offices in New Orleans and with affiliated clinical partners; and she is also adjunct faculty for Tulane University School of Medicine where she teaches in the Department of Family and Community Medicine; and

WHEREAS, Karen Grant-Anderson, is a New Orleans native, a gifted singer, and at a very young age, she turned toward her gift of singing and discovered her own identity through music, and through the years, the city's many cultural influences have shaped her as an artist and a person; and

WHEREAS, Karen is a current full-time music industry major and psychology minor at Dillard University; after obtaining her bachelor's degree, she plans to enter graduate school to achieve her PhD in music therapy after which she plans to use her PhD to aid the senior community with a better quality of life through interactive experiences that are entertaining and therapeutic; and

WHEREAS, Zaria Ivory is a sophomore vocal performance major originally from Oakland, California; was "singing before she could even talk" and she has made it her goal to be a participant in every performance opportunity on the Dillard University campus to help perfect her craft; and

WHEREAS, her goal is to become a professional singer and build a musical and business empire that spreads throughout many fields while pursuing one of her passions – helping to build up the next generation with the goal of combining her passion for youth with her love for the arts and create a nonprofit organization to help youth who are interested in the fine arts; and

WHEREAS, William Shelton is an English major from Nashville, Tennessee, and has a passion for creative writing – specifically play writing, short stories, and poetry; and

WHEREAS, William interned with New Orleans Writer's Workshop as a social media and marketing intern, and recently his play "Yellow Dancer" was selected by the Black Seed Project, presented by The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, and scheduled for a live staged reading; and

WHEREAS, William is in his final year of his undergraduate studies and he hopes to go to graduate school to further his studies in English and creative writing; and

WHEREAS, Nailah Starks is a junior English major from Amite, Louisiana, and she has a passion for teaching, reading, and writing; her poetry has been published by 2019 Appelley Rising Stars Collection and the 2020 Upon Arrival Anthology; and

WHEREAS, her personal statement is to educate, influence, transform, and inspire those who face adversity through her teachings, writings, and personal experiences; upon graduation from Dillard University, Nailah is planning on attending an alternative teaching certification program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the 2021-2022 Inspiring Health Justice Residents and scholar-in-residence on their residency collaboration of DESPAIR-ity: The Call of History to Pull Us Forward.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kristi L. Anderson, PhD, Karen Grant-Anderson, Zaria Ivory, William Shelton, and Nailah Starks.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE