

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 280 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY MARTIN, DUSH, LANGERHOLC, FARRY, CULVER, BREWSTER, VOGEL, MASTRIANO AND COSTA, MAY 17, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MAY 17, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating The Pennsylvania State University wrestling team  
2 on its 12th National Collegiate Athletic Association Division  
3 I Championship and congratulating the residents of this  
4 Commonwealth who competed and placed during the National  
5 Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Wrestling  
6 Championship.

7 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State University (PSU) wrestling  
8 team won its 11th National Collegiate Athletic Association  
9 (NCAA) Division I Wrestling Championship in the past 13  
10 Championship Tournaments, its third consecutive championship and  
11 12th team title overall; and

12 WHEREAS, PSU has the third-most team titles in history behind  
13 Oklahoma State University with 34 and the University of Iowa  
14 with 24; and

15 WHEREAS, PSU scored 172.5 points, setting a record for most  
16 points scored in a tournament, which was previously set at 170  
17 points by the University of Iowa in 1997; and

18 WHEREAS, PSU's 100-point margin of victory was the largest in  
19 NCAA history, supplanting the previous record of 73.75 points  
20 set by the University of Iowa in 1986, and nearly double PSU's

1 school record of 55 points set in 2023; and

2 WHEREAS, The PSU wrestling team tied its previous school  
3 record of eight All-Americans in a single season, bringing PSU's  
4 total to 254 individuals who have earned the distinction, of  
5 which 91 have wrestled under PSU Wrestling Head Coach Cael  
6 Sanderson; and

7 WHEREAS, At 38 individual first-place finishes, the PSU  
8 wrestling team has won the most individual titles in the nation  
9 since 2011, nearly tripling the wins of the next closest  
10 competitor; and

11 WHEREAS, PSU has a total of 59 NCAA titles in school history  
12 spread among 37 individuals; and

13 WHEREAS, For the second time in as many years, PSU featured  
14 seven total wrestlers who finished in the top three in their  
15 respective weight classes; and

16 WHEREAS, Coach Sanderson and his coaching staff won their  
17 11th NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship; and

18 WHEREAS, Coach Sanderson is tied for the second most wins  
19 under any coach in NCAA wrestling history, alongside Oklahoma  
20 State University's Ed Gallagher and behind the University of  
21 Iowa's Dan Gable at 15; and

22 WHEREAS, The Nittany Lion wrestling team coaching staff has  
23 been instrumental in the team's multiple successes; and

24 WHEREAS, Coach Sanderson's championship wrestlers have a 38-  
25 18 record in the NCAA Wrestling Tournament Finals; and

26 WHEREAS, PSU is the only team since Coach Sanderson's arrival  
27 in 2011 with at least one victor from each individual weight  
28 class in the NCAA Championship Tournament; and

29 WHEREAS, PSU won the 2024 Big Ten Wrestling Championship  
30 Title with a team score of 170.5 points, their eighth Big Ten

1 Championship overall and second consecutive title; and

2 WHEREAS, For the first time in NCAA history, PSU featured two  
3 four-time NCAA champions on its season roster; and

4 WHEREAS, Carter Starocci and Aaron Brooks joined an elite  
5 group of five other four-time NCAA champions, including Coach  
6 Sanderson; and

7 WHEREAS, In his third appearance at the NCAA Championship  
8 Tournament, PSU wrestler Beau Bartlett placed second in the 141-  
9 pound division, earning the All-American distinction for the  
10 second time; and

11 WHEREAS, In his first appearance at the NCAA Championship  
12 Tournament, true freshman PSU wrestler Tyler Kasak placed third  
13 in the 149-pound division, only the ninth wrestler in history to  
14 do so after losing in the first round, earning the All-American  
15 distinction for the first time; and

16 WHEREAS, In his second appearance at the NCAA Championship  
17 Tournament, PSU wrestler Levi Haines placed first in the 157-  
18 pound division, earning the All-American distinction for the  
19 second time; and

20 WHEREAS, In his first appearance at the NCAA Championship  
21 Tournament, PSU Wrestler Mitchell Mesenbrink placed second in  
22 the 165-pound division, earning the All-American distinction for  
23 the first time; and

24 WHEREAS, In his fourth appearance at the NCAA Championship  
25 Tournament, PSU wrestler Carter Starocci placed first in the  
26 174-pound division, defeating Pennsylvania native Rocco Welsh,  
27 making him PSU's first four-time NCAA Champion, and earning the  
28 All-American distinction for the fourth time; and

29 WHEREAS, In his fourth appearance at the NCAA Championship  
30 Tournament, PSU wrestler Bernie Truax placed fifth in the 184-

1 pound division, earning the All-American distinction for the  
2 fourth time; and

3 WHEREAS, In his fourth appearance at the NCAA Championship  
4 Tournament, PSU wrestler Aaron Brooks placed first in the 197-  
5 pound division, defeating Pennsylvania native Trent Hidlay,  
6 making him PSU's second four-time NCAA Champion; and

7 WHEREAS, PSU wrestler Aaron Brooks earned the All-American  
8 distinction for the fifth time, was awarded both the 2024 NCAA  
9 Most Dominant Wrestler and 2024 NCAA Championship Outstanding  
10 Wrestler and was named recipient of the 2024 Dan Hodge Trophy,  
11 the seventh PSU wrestler ever to earn the distinction with 48 of  
12 59 votes, three of which went to two other PSU wrestlers; and

13 WHEREAS, In his fourth appearance at the NCAA Championship  
14 Tournament, PSU wrestler Greg Kerkvliet placed first in the 285-  
15 pound division, earning the All-American distinction for the  
16 fourth time; and

17 WHEREAS, Lehigh University wrestler Ryan Crookham of  
18 Hellertown placed third in the 133-pound division, earning the  
19 All-American distinction; and

20 WHEREAS, The Ohio State University wrestler Rocco Welsh of  
21 Waynesburg placed second in the 174-pound division, earning the  
22 All-American distinction; and

23 WHEREAS, North Carolina State wrestler Trent Hidlay of  
24 Lewistown placed second in the 197-pound division, earning the  
25 All-American distinction; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate congratulate The Pennsylvania State  
27 University wrestling team on its 12th National Collegiate  
28 Athletic Association Division I Wrestling Championship and  
29 congratulate the residents of this Commonwealth who competed and  
30 placed during the National Collegiate Athletic Association

1 Division I Wrestling Championship; and be it further  
2 RESOLVED, That the Senate congratulate Levi Haines, Carter  
3 Starocci, Aaron Brooks and Greg Kerkvliet on their individual  
4 wins at the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship and their  
5 individual awards; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate wish The Pennsylvania State  
7 University wrestling team, all Pennsylvania native wrestlers and  
8 all wrestlers of Pennsylvania universities continued success  
9 both athletically and academically in the future.