**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE LANCASTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ON RECEIVING THE 2014 SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (SCACD) OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARD, AS WELL AS THE SCACD’S 2014 OUTSTANDING DISTRICT EMPLOYEE AWARD AND 2014 SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR THE SEVENTH‑ TO TWELFTH‑ GRADE CATEGORY.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District has captured three of five awards granted for 2014 by the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts, including the Outstanding Conservation District Award, Outstanding District Employee Award, and South Carolina Conservation Teacher of the Year Award for the seventh‑ to twelfth‑grade category; and

Whereas, Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District’s major accomplishments in land application conservation or ag/tech include several East Piedmont RC&D Projects (Southside Gardening Project, Lancaster Children’s Home Gardening Project, Lancaster High School Herb Gardening Project, Camp Wildwood, Spring Stevens Fish Hatchery Project, and KARE Project). Among the other qualifications that brought it the Outstanding Conservation District Award, the district has demonstrated leadership for soil and water conservation and sponsored exceptional education programs; and

Whereas, the 2014 Outstanding District Employee Award is given by the SCACD to recognize the accomplishments that a district employee has made locally and/or statewide to support and foster conservation efforts. Of Amanda Roberts, the 2014 winner, USDA‑NRCS District Conservationist Ann Christie had this to say: “…The current district manager, Amanda Roberts, is, in my opinion, outstanding. Her talents in education and administration are exceptional. She [was] Conservation District Employee of the Year in 2008 and has been president of the South Carolina Conservation District Employees Association. She is a Master Naturalist. She has been generous in her time and efforts in training and assisting other district employees, both in and out of state. Her work ethic is remarkable, …her people skills are excellent, and she is a credit to the Conservation Partnership”; and

Whereas, Troy Helms won the 2014 South Carolina Conservation Teacher of the Year Award for the seventh‑ to twelfth‑grade category. A thirteen‑year veteran of instructing within this grade category, he currently teaches agriculture science, horticulture, turf and lawn management, and ag mechanics at the ninth‑ to twelfth‑grade level. He has completed two biosystems technology graduate courses through Clemson University with a focus on alternative energy and conservation of natural resources, and he attended a week‑long workshop that focused on student inquiry and research in areas related to agriculture, horticulture, and natural resources conservation and preservation. He also has coached numerous students for participation in the South Carolina Envirothon, FFA Soils Career Development Event (CDE), FFA Wildlife CDE, and numerous other FFA CDEs. He is a 2014 DuPont Agriscience Ambassador; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in saluting the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District for taking home these three coveted awards, and the members wish the district well as it continues to carry out its important mission. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District on receiving the 2014 South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD) Outstanding Conservation District Award, as well as the SCACD’s 2014 Outstanding District Employee Award and 2014 South Carolina Conservation Teacher of the Year Award for the seventh‑ to twelfth‑grade category.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be presented to the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District and to Amanda Roberts and Troy Helms.

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