

DENNIS CORPORATION PARTICIPATES IN BENEDICT COLLEGE 2010 TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

March 25, 2010

Columbia, SC - On March 25, 2010, Dennis Corporation attended the Benedict College 2010 Transportation Summit: Careers and Distracted Driving. Prior to the Summit, a Senate Resolution was held at the State House "to commend Benedict College for hosting the 2010 Transportation Summit...and to encourage other South Carolina colleges and universities to cooperate with like-minded organizations and agencies to heighten public awareness and education concerning the issue of distracted-driver legislation."

During the Resolution, Benedict College, the Federal Highway Administration, SC Department of Public Safety, AT&T, Dennis Corporation, and a number of other companies and agencies were recognized for their concern on the issue of aggressive and distracted driving. In attendance from Dennis Corporation were Beth Fleming, Controller, Matthew Watson, Roadway Design Associate, Brian King, Senior Inspector, and Kara DeFelice, Marketing Associate.

After the Resolution, Dennis Corporation employee Matthew Watson took part in a round table discussion at Benedict College titled "Careers in Transportation" where he was a panelist. Dennis Corporation also set up a table at the David H. Swinton Campus Center to provide Benedict College students with more information about the company and internship opportunities.

During the Senate Resolution, it was stated that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute estimated that around 82% of crashes are largely due to lack of attention by the driver. For this reason and others, transportation safety is a major concern of Dennis Corporation. Being part of this Summit enabled Dennis Corporation to further support safe driving and transportation in South Carolina.

Vareva Harris, Interim Associate Vice President for Governmental Sponsored Programs and Community Relations who served an integral part of the Summit



Dennis Corporation employees are recognized during the Senate Resolution.



Benedict College administration, Dennis Corporation employees and others after the Senate Hearing.

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remarked on its' results, saying, "By all outcome measurements, the 2010 Transportation Summit was successful: 90% of the survey respondents indicated as a result of attending the summit their awareness about careers in the transportation industry increased; 95% indicated that their awareness about the dangers of distracted driving increased and 683 students signed pledges that they will not text and drive. We are especially grateful to our sponsors: AT&T, Dennis Corporation, State Farm and United Infrastructure Group for partnering with us."

Dennis Corporation is a South Carolina licensed civil engineering, surveying and construction management firm. Dennis Corporation's specific fields of expertise include aviation engineering, civil infrastructure, construction management, construction services, environmental services, expert witness, geotechnical engineering, intelligent transportation systems, program management, special projects, surveying, traffic engineering, transportation engineering and water resources.



The Resolution is read aloud on the Senate floor.

1 Senate:Scott
2 Attorney:Harwell-Beach
3 Stenographer: McDowell/Sanders
4 Date: March 24, 2010
5 Doc Name: L:\Council\Bills\RM\1167\AHB10.DOCX
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9 **A SENATE RESOLUTION**
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11 TO COMMEND BENEDICT COLLEGE FOR HOSTING THE
12 "2010 TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT: CAREERS AND
13 DISTRACTED DRIVING" ON MARCH 25, 2010, AND TO
14 ENCOURAGE OTHER SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGES AND
15 UNIVERSITIES TO COOPERATE WITH LIKE-MINDED
16 ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES TO HEIGHTEN PUBLIC
17 AWARENESS AND EDUCATION CONCERNING THE ISSUE
18 OF DISTRACTED-DRIVER LEGISLATION.
19
20 Whereas, creating jobs and workforce-development opportunities
21 and improving transportation safety, including the reduction of
22 fatalities and injuries, are goals of both the federal government and
23 the State of South Carolina; and
24
25 Whereas, the South Carolina Department of Transportation,
26 Federal Highway Administration, South Carolina Department of
27 Public Safety, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration are
28 responsible for maintaining a transportation planning process for
29 the State of South Carolina that includes strategies and
30 recommendations for the improvement of job creation, workforce
31 development, and transportation safety and planning; and
32
33 Whereas, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
34 (NHTSA) calculates that motor vehicle crashes cost Americans
35 approximately two hundred thirty billion dollars annually in
36 economic damages; and
37
38 Whereas, NHTSA and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
39 (VTTI) estimate that nearly eighty percent of crashes and
40 sixty-five percent of near-crashes involve some form of driver
41 inattention; and
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1 Whereas, NHTSA and VTTI estimate that driver distraction is a
2 factor in approximately 4.78 million crashes, resulting in two
3 million injuries, more than thirty-four thousand fatalities, and as
4 much as one hundred eighty-four billion dollars in economic
5 damages annually; and
6
7 Whereas, VTTI found cell phones to be the most common cause of
8 driver distraction; and
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10 Whereas, a university study found that college students face a
11 crash risk eight times greater when texting than when not texting;
12 and
13
14 Whereas, VTTI found that truck drivers face a crash risk or
15 near-crash risk twenty-three times greater when texting than when
16 not texting; and
17
18 Whereas, the American Media Association called text messaging
19 while driving "a public health risk," citing a study that found text
20 messaging while driving causes a four hundred percent increase in
21 time spent with eyes off the road; and
22
23 *Whereas, Benedict College, the Federal Highway Administration,*
24 *South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Federal Motor Carrier*
25 *Safety Administration, AT&T, Dennis Corporation, State Farm*
26 *Insurance Companies, and United Infrastructure Group have come*
27 *together to address job creation, workforce development, high-risk*
28 *travel behavior, and user groups as a result of aggressive and*
29 *distracted driving; and*
30
31 Whereas, South Carolina has made significant progress towards
32 developing distracted-driver legislation, especially legislation to
33 prohibit text messaging while driving. To facilitate further
34 progress, colleges and universities should participate with other
35 like-minded agencies in education, insurance, law enforcement,
36 nonprofit work, policy, technology, and transportation to increase
37 public awareness and education about the importance of this issue.
38 Now, therefore,
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40 Be it resolved by the Senate:
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42 That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution,
43 commend Benedict College for hosting the "2010 Transportation
44
45 [] 2 RM\1167\AHB10.DOCX