

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Frazier, Blount, Branning, Butler (38th), Caughman, DeBar, England, Horhn, McDaniel, Simmons (12th), Simmons (13th), Sparks, Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JACKSON STATE
2 UNIVERSITY "TIGERS" FOOTBALL AWARD-WINNING COACH DEION "COACH
3 PRIME" SANDERS FOR A REMARKABLE PROGRAM RECORD 11-WIN SEASON AND
4 FOR BEING NAMED THE 2021 SWAC COACH OF THE YEAR.

5 WHEREAS, one of the biggest coaching hires in Football
6 Championship Subdivision college football history has paid quick
7 dividends. Just over a year after the school made the legendary
8 cornerback a first-time head coach, the Tigers have set a program
9 record with 11 wins and captured the Southwestern Athletic
10 Conference (SWAC) Title for the first time since 2007. The Tigers
11 qualified for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities
12 Title Celebration Bowl for the first time; and

13 WHEREAS, Jackson State University certainly "believes" in the
14 results Coach Deion "Prime" Sanders, who was named the 2021
15 recipient of the Stats Perform FCS Eddie Robinson Award, which is
16 presented to the National Coach of the Year in the Division I
17 Subdivision. One of 17 finalists for the award, which is named
18 for legendary Grambling State Coach Eddie Robinson and celebrating



19 its 35th anniversary season, Sanders will be honored at the FCS
20 National Awards Banquet in Frisco, Texas; and

21 WHEREAS, "This is a team effort, it's a valiant effort, it
22 takes a lot, it does not just take me. I know it takes a
23 visionary, but people have to really support the vision. And
24 that's what we did," Sanders said. After Jackson State hired
25 Sanders in September 2020, he quickly instituted an "I Believe"
26 mantra to suggest positive days were ahead for a program that
27 didn't have a winning season since 2013; and

28 WHEREAS, with Sanders' son Shedeur, a freshman quarterback,
29 leading the offense as the 2021 Jerry Rice Award recipient, and
30 the defense ranking as the SWAC's best, Jackson State has gone
31 11-1, including 9-0 against conference opponents. While it's
32 unfolded, an average of 42,293 fans flocked to six home games - a
33 single-season record for an FCS school; and

34 WHEREAS, after being named SWAC "Coach of the Year" and FCS
35 "Coach of the Year," and after winning a conference championship
36 with a chance to win the program's first HBCU national title in a
37 quarter century, it's time to consider whether Coach Sanders' is
38 transforming the power structure of college athletics. JSU
39 overshadowed every college football heavyweight on the first day
40 of the early signing period when five-star cornerback Travis
41 Hunter, the nation's No. 1 overall recruit, launched a new era in
42 the sport by switching his commitment from Florida State to the
43 Tigers; and



44 WHEREAS, Jerry Rice, Doug Williams, and of course, the
45 legend, JSU's own Walter Payton all came from historically black
46 colleges and universities which have a rich history in football;
47 and

48 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
49 award-winning Coach who has brought honor and national attention
50 to Jackson State University and to the Capital City:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
52 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
53 Jackson State University "Tigers" Football award-winning Coach
54 Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders for a remarkable program record 11-win
55 season and for winning the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)
56 Title for the first time since 2007, and extend to Coach Prime and
57 his assistants, the team, parents, sponsors and support staff our
58 best wishes for future success.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
60 Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders for the JSU Tigers, JSU President,
61 Thomas K. Hudson, forwarded to the Board of Trustees of State
62 Institutions of Higher Learning and made available to the Capitol
63 Press Corps.

