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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 323 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, SCHWANK, FERLO, ARGALL, ROBBINS, WOZNIAK,  
DINNIMAN, STACK, TEPLITZ, ERICKSON, WASHINGTON, GREENLEAF,  
BROWNE, EICHELBERGER, RAFFERTY, FONTANA, SOLOBAY, WHITE,  
BAKER, SMITH, ALLOWAY AND VULAKOVICH, MARCH 19, 2014

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 19, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Smith-  
2 Lever Act, which founded the nationwide Cooperative Extension  
3 System.

4 WHEREAS, May 8, 2014, marks the centennial of the signing of  
5 the Smith-Lever Act (38 Stat. 372, 7 U.S.C. § 341 et seq.),  
6 which established Cooperative Extension, the nationwide  
7 transformational education system operating through land-grant  
8 universities, in partnership with Federal, State and local  
9 governments; and

10 WHEREAS, United States Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia and  
11 United States Representative Asbury Francis Lever of South  
12 Carolina authored the Smith-Lever Act to expand the vocational,  
13 agricultural and home demonstration programs in rural America by  
14 bringing the research-based knowledge of the land-grant  
15 universities to people where they live and work; and

16 WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension is a critical component of the  
17 three-part land-grant university mission and works

1 collaboratively with research, particularly the Agricultural  
2 Experiment Station System, and academic programs in 106 colleges  
3 and universities, including historically black, Native American  
4 and Hispanic-serving institutions in all 50 states, the District  
5 of Columbia and six United States territories to reach  
6 traditional and underserved audiences in all communities; and

7       WHEREAS, The Cooperative Extension System continues to  
8 receive Federal leadership and support enabled by the Smith-  
9 Lever Act and other legislation through the United States  
10 Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and  
11 Agriculture; and

12       WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension's research-based education for  
13 farmers and ranchers helped establish the United States as a  
14 leading agricultural producing nation; and

15       WHEREAS, Since 1924, when the clover emblem was adopted by  
16 the United States Department of Agriculture to represent 4-H,  
17 Cooperative Extension's nationwide youth development program has  
18 reached millions of youth and helped prepare them for  
19 responsible adulthood; and

20       WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension prepares people for healthy,  
21 productive lives through sustained education, such as the  
22 Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, which is designed  
23 to break the cycle of poverty and reducing expenditures for  
24 Federal and State assistance programs; and

25       WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension provides rapid response to  
26 disasters and emergencies through the Extension Disaster  
27 Education Network and similar efforts by providing real-time  
28 alerts and resources so Cooperative Extension educators can  
29 respond to urgent needs due to hurricanes, floods, oil spills,  
30 fire, drought, pest outbreaks and infectious diseases affecting

1 humans, livestock and crops; and

2 WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension translates science-based  
3 research for practical application through local and online  
4 learning networks, where educators are available to identify  
5 emerging research questions, connect with land-grant university  
6 faculty to find answers and encourage application of findings to  
7 improve economic and social conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, Cooperative Extension engages with rural and urban  
9 learners through practical, community-based and online  
10 approaches, resulting in the acquisition of knowledge, skills  
11 and motivation to strengthen the profitability of animal and  
12 plant production systems, protect natural resources, help people  
13 make healthy lifestyle choices, ensure a safe and abundant food  
14 supply, encourage community vitality and grow the next  
15 generation of leaders; and

16 WHEREAS, Many states are celebrating the centennial of the  
17 signing of the Smith-Lever Act with resolutions and  
18 proclamations, and many land-grant institutions also are  
19 commemorating the signing of the historic legislation; therefore  
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the significance of the  
22 Smith-Lever Act to the establishment of Cooperative Extension  
23 nationwide; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage the people of the United  
25 States to observe and celebrate the centennial of the signing of  
26 the act with a focus on launching an innovative and sustainable  
27 future for Cooperative Extension; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the university faculty and  
29 local educators who dedicate their careers to providing trusted  
30 education to help people, families, youth, businesses and

1 communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better  
2 future; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That the Senate thank Cooperative Extension  
4 volunteers who provide thousands of hours to promote excellence  
5 for 4-H, Master Gardeners, Family and Consumer Sciences and  
6 other programs in their communities and encourages continued  
7 collaboration and cooperation among Federal, State and local  
8 governments to ensure Cooperative Extension's sustainability as  
9 the nation's premiere nonformal educational network; and be it  
10 further

11       RESOLVED, That the Senate celebrate the millions of youth,  
12 adults, families, farmers, ranchers, community leaders and  
13 others who engage in Cooperative Extension learning  
14 opportunities designed to extend knowledge and change lives.