

2022 SESSION

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 185

Offered March 10, 2022

Commending Blair Durham.

Patron—Glass

WHEREAS, Blair Durham, a Hampton Roads native and alumna of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, has greatly served the community for several years; and

WHEREAS, in June 2016, Blair Durham co-founded Black BRAND, a regional African American chamber of commerce, now with divisions in Hampton Roads and the Dan River region, with her husband, Bashiri Durham; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Blair Durham established the "Black Wall Street Today" radio show on WHOV-88.1FM, iHeart Radio, and podcast media platforms, where she has interviewed nearly 400 business and community leaders as a development resource for the community; and

WHEREAS, Blair Durham was recently awarded the prestigious 2021 Workforce Champion of Year award by the Hampton Roads Workforce Council and is a member of the CIVIC Leadership Institute Class of 2022; and

WHEREAS, Blair Durham also established Start Simple, a youth entrepreneurship initiative for low- and moderate-income middle and high school students with an emphasis on business education for job creation that has impacted more than 2,000 Norfolk and Portsmouth high school students; and

WHEREAS, Blair Durham and her team have worked to develop other innovative programs to help African American businesses strengthen and scale their operations, including the B-Force Accelerator, the WeCare 757 Rebuild Grant program, Wealth Machine, and notably Black BRAND's "150 Year Plan: A Shared Vision for a Thriving Community"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Blair Durham hereby be commended for her academic, cultural, and civic accomplishments; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Blair Durham as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for her contributions to the Commonwealth.

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