

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. ____

By Senator Francisco

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the 2011-2012 University of Kansas men's and women's basketball teams.

WHEREAS, The University of Kansas has had the honor of being home to two of the finest sports programs in the nation. Over the course of the last year, the players and coaches involved with the men's and women's basketball programs have shown what can be accomplished with hard work and dedication both on and off the basketball court and their continued efforts act to strengthen the university's proud athletic traditions that have been in place at KU since the days of coach Forrest "Phog" Allen; and

WHEREAS, The KU women's basketball team managed to pull off a long series of early season wins last fall under the leadership of coach Bonnie Henrickson and, despite losing their leading scorer in the middle of Big 12 Conference play and having to work their way through an incredibly competitive string of Big 12 Conference games, the lady Jayhawks secured a spot in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2000. From there the women's team then managed to make it all the way to the Sweet 16, tying the program's best NCAA finish; and

WHEREAS, The KU men's basketball team was declared to be in a state of rebuilding by many in the sports community after losing six of last year's players, but that did not stop them from having one of their best seasons yet. The Jayhawks defeated some of the top teams in the nation during their regular season and secured their eighth consecutive Big 12 Conference Championship title before making it all the way to the NCAA Tournament finals where they emerged as national runner-up. The team's Final Four appearance was the 14th in KU's storied history; and

WHEREAS, KU men's Head Coach Bill Self was named Big 12 Coach of the Year and Naismith College Coach of the Year and the players' classroom accomplishments were honored by

being declared the winners of Inside Higher Ed's annual academic competition; and

WHEREAS, Both KU teams truly demonstrated an "ad astra" spirit, refusing to let their seasons and their spirits be diminished from the adversity they faced: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend the University of Kansas men's and women's basketball teams on their outstanding 2011-2012 seasons. Their great athletic and academic achievements are sources of pride for the University of Kansas, the city of Lawrence and the state of Kansas. We wish all of the team members, coaches and staff the best of luck in future endeavors, both on and off the court; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send eight enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Francisco.