

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Ashley Willits upon the occasion of her election as President of the New York FFA

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend and pay tribute to those young people who, by achieving outstanding success in their competitive endeavors have inspired and brought pride to our majestic Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Ashley Willits upon the occasion of her election as President of the New York FFA; and

WHEREAS, The FFA, a national youth organization, once known as the Future Farmers of America, offers leadership and career development opportunities for students interested in any agriculturally related career; and

WHEREAS, One in five American careers is founded in agriculture and students studying agricultural education in New York high schools are preparing for careers that are essential (food safety), current ("Green" technology and renewable fuels) and lucrative (veterinary science); and

WHEREAS, On May 3, 2013, Ashley Willits of Copenhagen, New York, a junior at Lowville Academy and Central School in Lowville, New York, was elected as President of the New York FFA; and

WHEREAS, As the elected President of New York FFA, Ashley Willits will have the chance to promote these opportunities throughout the state to students, school administrators, businesses and legislators; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as President of New York FFA, Ashley Willits will receive over 250 hours of training and spend more than a month on the road over her summer vacation; she will also have the opportunity to help foster personal and career success for nearly 4,000 FFA members statewide, and will be visiting local schools, facilitating workshops, and giving speeches to groups interested in agriculture and education; and

WHEREAS, Residing on a small hobby farm in Copenhagen, New York, with her parents and four brothers, Ashley Willits has been involved with FFA since the sixth grade and was a charter member of the Copenhagen FFA; she later transferred to Lowville Academy in 2011 where she has been an active FFA member; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Willits has served as an FFA chapter reporter and secretary, and also as District VI President on the 2012-2013 State Officer Team; she was a state finalist in 2012 and 2013 in the Prepared Speaking and Job Interview Career Development Event (CDE) and a National Finalist in 2010 for the FFA Creed Speaking CDE; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Ashley Willits was a member of the National Poultry Judging Team in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Willits' strong public speaking skills and her knowledge base of agricultural issues has led her to pursue a career in the public sector working to improve legislation that affects the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to celebrate the individual accomplishments of remarkable young people in this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize and applaud Ashley Willits for her noteworthy endeavors and achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Ashley Willits upon the occasion of her election as President of the New York FFA; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ashley Willits.

