

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jessica Cherry upon the occasion of winning the 2015 Community College Grand Prize in the David A. Garfinkel Essay Contest

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

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jessica Cherry upon the occasion of winning the 2015 Community College Grand Prize by the David A. Garfinkel Essay Contest; this auspicious occasion was celebrated on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at the New York State Court of Appeals in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Presented by the Historical Society of the Courts of the State New York, the David A. Garfinkel Essay Contest invites community college students from around the state to submit essays on topics of legal relevance; this year, contestants were charged with addressing the question: "How have the New York Courts addressed equal human rights for the LGBT Community?"; and

WHEREAS, A native of Oakfield, New York, Jessica Cherry is a student at Genesee Community College (GCC) studying Criminal Justice; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed young woman captured the 2015 Community College Grand Prize with her outstanding essay, "A Look at How New York State Legislation Has Profoundly Impacted LGBT Family Law"; and

WHEREAS, In her essay, Jessica Cherry wrote about the nature of family and adoption for LGBT couples, and the positive steps New York State has taken in becoming a role model for other states in striving for equality, especially in Family Law and adoption rights; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Jessica Cherry also chronicled the legal evolution of these rights and closes by expressing her hopes that additional states will follow in the footsteps of New York in regards to marriage laws and adoption rights; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Cherry has recently finished a semester long internship with the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, and is a former member of the GCC Student Safety Patrol; she will be transferring to SUNY Brockport in the Fall of 2015 to complete her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice; she also plans on becoming a Police Officer; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her parents, Rebecca and Michael Cherry, and her brother, Benjamin, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, Poised eagerly with enthusiasm and determined purpose, this scholar now stands honorably, with just pride in her accomplishments and in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the caring counsel and support provided by her teachers, counselors, and parents; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jessica Cherry upon winning the 2015 Community College Grand Prize in the David A. Garfinkel Essay Contest; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jessica Cherry.