

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dana McDonough upon the occasion of her designation as the 2016 New York State Teacher of the Year

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dana McDonough upon the occasion of her designation as the 2016 New York State Teacher of the Year by the New York State Education Department; and

WHEREAS, Dana McDonough, the 46th New York State Teacher of the Year, has been teaching first or second grade in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District for her entire career of 22 years; she currently teaches second graders at Fostertown ETC Magnet School; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to her students, Dana McDonough encourages children to recognize and take ownership of their own path of learning in and out of the classroom; she works with the whole community around a child, realizing that learning does not begin and end in the classroom; she gives her students the tools they need to be lifelong learners; and

WHEREAS, Dana McDonough, a native of Newburgh, New York, was educated in the city's public schools; she is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary College, also in Newburgh, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education (N-6), and a Master of Science degree in Education with a Reading Specialization; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she holds a permanent New York State Certification in Elementary (N-6) Education; and

WHEREAS, Dana McDonough is the recipient of countless awards and accolades, including the Dean's Award for Excellence for Teacher of the Hudson Valley; she has also twice received the Teaching the Hudson Valley Explore Award and has been published in the National Education Association's NEA TODAY magazine; and

WHEREAS, A child-centered professional who values teaching and learning above all, Dana McDonough is an educator who readily shares her knowledge and experience with her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Dana McDonough's commitment to family involvement is evident in all that she does as an educator; in addition to meeting with the families of each of her incoming students, she has created programs to provide tools for parents, enabling them to better support their children through the curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Dana McDonough emails parents weekly with updates about lessons and activities to nurture that essential partnership; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Emmett, and their two daughters, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Dana McDonough provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of young people in their educational journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, Dana McDonough has clearly had an enduring impact on the youth of the Newburgh Enlarged City School District and the community at

large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for many impres-

sive years of dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals who work to support our proud tradition of public education by providing their skills and talents to our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dana McDonough upon the occasion of her designation as the 2016 New York State Teacher of the Year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dana McDonough.