

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the 2015-2016 University at Albany Women's Basketball Team upon the occasion of capturing the American East Conference Championship, and advancing to the second round of the NCAA Women's Basketball National Tournament

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the 2015-2016 University at Albany Women's Basketball Team upon the occasion of capturing the American East Conference Championship on Friday, March 11, 2016, and advancing to the second round of the NCAA Women's Basketball National Tournament; and

WHEREAS, The University at Albany Women's Great Danes Basketball Team achieved a record breaking fifth American East Conference Title with an exciting 59-58 victory over the University of Maine in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, Following their official selection for the 2016 NCAA Tournament, the UAlbany Great Danes entered the first round as the 12th seed, and upset the fifth seeded Florida Gators with a dramatic 61-59 comeback win at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, New York, on March 18, 2016; and

WHEREAS, With this victory, the Great Danes have earned their first NCAA Division I Tournament win in the history of the women's basketball program, and tied a program record for wins in a single season with 28; and

WHEREAS, The athletic talent displayed by this team is due in great part to the efforts of Coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson and Assistant Coaches Mary Grimes, Isoken Uzamere and Tahnee Balerio, skilled and inspirational tutors respected for their ability to turn potential into excellence; and

WHEREAS, The 2015-2016 University at Albany Women's Basketball Team have proven themselves to be an outstanding collection of talents, reflecting favorably on their school; and

WHEREAS, Coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson has done a superb job in guiding, molding and inspiring the team members toward their goals; and

WHEREAS, Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and Coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson and these outstanding athletes have clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of their school; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the University at Albany Women's Basketball Team; its members: Erin Coughlin, Aubrey Hernandez, Bailey Hixson, Imani Tate, Bose Aiyalogbe, Jessica Fequiere, Heather Forster, Zakiya Saunders, Shereesha Richards, Tiana-Jo Carter, and Cassandra Edwards; Coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson; Assistant Coaches Mary Grimes, Isoken Uzamere and Tahnee Balerio; Graduate Assistant Manager Jordyn Wartts; and Director of Basketball Operations Elizabeth Tapler, on their outstanding season and overall team record; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the University at Albany Women's Basketball Team, and Coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson.