

BY: Senator GAUGHRAN

HONORING Shawn Powell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for Educational Opportunity Program Student Excellence from the State University of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, honoring the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements best exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Shawn Powell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for Educational Opportunity Program Student Excellence from the State University of New York, to be celebrated on Thursday, April 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is a comprehensive support program which plays a pivotal role in opening doors to a SUNY education for academically disadvantaged students from low-income families in the State of New York; EOP is one of the oldest and most successful college access programs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious award honors the legacy of Norman R. McConney, Jr., a University at Albany graduate who alongside former Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve, created the Educational Opportunity Program, a program which has changed the lives of tens of thousands of students over its more than 50 years; and

WHEREAS, This special honor recognizes EOP students who have shown tremendous leadership academically and socially on their campus, and who have overcome unique challenges on their path to success; Shawn Powell is one such individual; and

WHEREAS, A proven leader within EOP, Shawn Powell possess both the motivation and the promise to succeed in higher education; with a current GPA of 3.7, this extraordinary young man continues to excel in his studies while working with administration and mentoring classmates; and

WHEREAS, Shawn Powell has been the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including a Certificate of Achievement for Young Leaders from the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission and Inter-Faith Anti-Bias Task Force in recognition of his steadfast commitment to human rights and efforts to foster mutual respect and inclusion within his school and community; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he was awarded the SEPTA on behalf of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Continuing Education Award; and

WHEREAS, The success of the State of New York, the strength of our communities, and the vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Shawn Powell, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, Shawn Powell, in achieving this high academic honor, may take just pride in the inspiration and contribution to the spirit of excellence he brings to his family, friends, community and school; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Shawn Powell, a young man and able scholar, recognizing the value of his labors and the promise of his future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Shawn Powell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for Educational Opportunity Program Student Excellence, and to extend to him the best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Shawn Powell.