LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Linda Jackson-Chalmers upon the occasion of her designation as the recipient of a 2012 Educational Advancement Foundation Salute To Excellence in Community Education Award

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community and its children merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Linda Jackson-Chalmers, of the City School District of Albany upon the occasion of her designation as the recipient of a 2012 Educational Advancement Foundation Salute To Excellence in Community Education Award; and

WHEREAS, Linda Jackson-Chalmers will be honored at the North Atlantic Region of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Cluster III Educational Advancement Foundation's Breakfast, to be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Tarrytown, New York on Saturday, June 23, 2012; and

WHEREAS, The Educational Advancement Foundation (EAF) is dedicated to the pursuit of lifelong learning and each year proudly recognizes individuals who have made a difference in non-traditional educational ways to create an environment in which children can grow; and

WHEREAS, Linda Jackson-Chalmers truly merits such recognition; and

WHEREAS, Linda Jackson-Chalmers has been a career educator with the City School District of Albany, New York for 38 years; for 35 of those years she has been an active and valued member of Alpha Kappa Alpha and credits her long successful career to the many alliances and mentors she's had the privilege to serve with as an AKA woman; and

WHEREAS, In every step of her career as a teacher, supervisor, principal and, in her current position as an Assistant Superintendent, she has worked tirelessly to bring about change for the betterment of the children and families in her school district; and

WHEREAS, One of her lasting legacies as a principal was the conversion of the Arbor Hill Elementary School, in one of Albany's most economically challenged neighborhoods, into a community school where strong linkages with community agencies, partnerships, faith based organizations and parents were marshaled to provide better services to students and their families; and

WHEREAS, Long before Hillary Clinton coined the phrase "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child," Linda Jackson-Chalmers and her faculty and staff made it happen at Arbor Hill Elementary School in the early 1990s; she called upon Alpha Kappa Alpha's Delta Mu Omega chapter to support this effort by providing incentive awards to students excelling in math and science and the chapter also hosted a very successful Math Bee for Albany's inner city students; and

WHEREAS, A testament to the institutionalization of the community school concept is the fact that the dedicated teachers choose to remain in this school within a tough neighborhood; one such teacher was hired by Linda Jackson-Chalmers and is now the Principal of the school, carrying on this commitment with much success; and

WHEREAS, Linda Jackson-Chalmers's board and community commitments are numerous and are all focused on making schools and community services more responsive to the needs of Albany's students; she is the Program Co-Chair of the Albany Area Links and helped develop its Umbrella Project, Believers and Achievers, which recently won a Regional Award from Links, Inc. for the chapter's efforts in providing an academic and enrichment program for 22 youngsters for a period of 5 years, through grades 4-8; and

WHEREAS, Linda Jackson-Chalmers is currently actively involved in an

emerging city effort called Albany Promise, a cradle to career pipeline fashioned after the Harlem Children's Zone concept that has assembled key members from the community: higher education, business, social services and community based agencies, on all levels, to initiate change for improved student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Albany Promise's mission is to support children from birth to college and beyond by eliminating obstacles and supporting student efforts at key intervals along the road to success and Linda Jackson-Chalmers recently made a presentation on the program at a meeting with SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend them for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Linda Jackson-Chalmers upon the occasion of her designation as the recipient of a 2012 Educational Advancement Foundation Salute To Excellence in Community Education Award on June 23, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Linda Jackson-Chalmers.