**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ALICE DRIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SUMTER COUNTY AND TO CONGRATULATE THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND ADMINISTRATORS FOR BEING ACCREDITED AS A SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH SCHOOL.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Alice Drive Middle School was named a nationally accredited Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) school on May 22, 2015; and

Whereas, the certification came through AdvancED, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that conducts on‑site external reviews of PreK‑12 schools and school systems; and

Whereas, in the middle of May, the school hosted a team of external reviewers to evaluate the quality of the STEM program, which recognized Alice Drive Middle School as the twelfth school in the nation to earn this accreditation, the only middle school in the State, and now a national model to follow; and

Whereas, the STEM program commenced at Alice Drive in the fall of 2012 as a twenty‑first century pilot school in partnership with the South Carolina Math and Science Coalition; and

Whereas, within two years, all students were receiving a quality STEM education as normative in the six STEM core competencies: critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration and teamwork, information literacy, appreciation for diversity, and metacognition or learning to learn; and

Whereas, students work in collaborative groups for projects, such as designing rollercoasters with simple, everyday materials to learn about force and motion or student‑led discussions to develop creative solutions for a coastal‑region erosion issue; and

Whereas, certification began with self‑assessment in the fall of 2014 to measure the school’s performance level for the STEM indicators: outreach activities, interdisciplinary and problem‑based learning, educator collaboration, inquiry‑based teaching, self‑directed learning experiences, technology, partnerships, extended learning‑day opportunities, STEM literacy measurements, and STEM profession learning; and

Whereas, faculty and staff members collaborated to substantiate the self‑assessment through documents specific to STEM practices and submitted the information to STEM certification reviewers in a “STEM‑like” presentation format through a digital portfolio; and

Whereas, written narratives described the STEM education success, challenges, and future plans to improve the program and were submitted for review; and

Whereas, two STEM certification reviewers visited the school for two days and reviewed the school’s evidence, conducted twenty‑six classroom observations, interviewed sixty‑eight school stakeholders affiliated with STEM, and deliberated during the on‑site review; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives commends Alice Drive Middle School for successfully permeating the overall school culture with STEM education, resulting in significant advances in collaborative, inquiry‑based, and student‑centered teaching and learning. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution recognizes and honors Alice Drive Middle School in Sumter County and congratulates the students, faculty, and administrators for being accredited as a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math school.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Principal Jeannie Pressley.

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