**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE LAING MIDDLE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN MT. PLEASANT ON BEING NAMED NUMBER ONE STEM MIDDLE SCHOOL IN THE NATION AND TO WISH THE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL THEIR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to congratulate Laing Middle School of Science and Technology for its national recognition as number one STEM middle school at the 2017 Future of Education Technology Conference in Orlando. The conference has recognized Laing as one of the top three middle schools for the past two years; and

Whereas, Laing Middle School of Science and Technology in Mt. Pleasant is the only partial magnet middle school in the area. It is also the only school in the area to have a Whole-School Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Initiative; and

Whereas, Laing continues to grow and develop its efforts in science and technology education. In 2012, staff began working to become a fully integrated STEM school. Students are exposed to engineering design and hands-on experiences with multiple technologies in all subjects; and

Whereas, home to over one thousand one hundred students, Laing maintains a mission to prepare and inspire generations of students to meet the challenges of twenty-first century society through technological literacy, academic achievement, innovation, collaboration, and creative problem solving; and

Whereas, Laing has developed the first middle school FabLab in South Carolina, with 3-D printers, a laser cutter, CNC mills, digital cutters, an engine lathe, welding capabilities, and electronic devices, to enhance its curriculum; and

Whereas, Laing has developed new courses in entrepreneurship and app development; and

Whereas, Laing has won numerous awards over the last three years, including the state championship in the 2016 Sea Perch competitions, an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with resources to build an underwater remotely operated vehicle; and

Whereas, in 2016, Laing also won the state championship for its first team in Odyssey of the Mind, a competition that teaches students to learn creative problem solving methods while having fun in the process. In 2017, Laing continues its record of receiving top honors across the State and nation. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Laing Middle School of Science and Technology on being named number one STEM middle school in the nation and look forward to hearing of its continued success.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to James Whitehair, Principal of Laing Middle School of Science and Technology.

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