**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DAVID MCDONALD, PRINCIPAL OF INDIAN LAND MIDDLE SCHOOL IN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, ON BEING NAMED 2012 SOUTH CAROLINA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives note with pleasure that Lancaster native David McDonald, principal of Indian Land Middle School in Lancaster County School District, has been named 2012 South Carolina Middle School Principal of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators; and

Whereas, Mr. McDonald’s faculty, students, and administrative colleagues are in no way surprised by this recognition, as he is an exemplar of those qualities that make a superb educator and administrator: leadership, ability to motivate, and a collaborative style, to all of which he also brings energy and enthusiasm. He is, as well, a proud graduate of Lancaster County School District; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, David McDonald earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education at Winthrop University, followed by a master’s degree in education administration from Concordia University Washington and an education specialist degree at the University of South Carolina, where he is currently working on a doctorate; and

Whereas, since Mr. McDonald has been at the helm of Indian Land Middle School, standardized test scores have been climbing and the school’s annual state report card rating has jumped from “average” to “excellent”; and

Whereas, an advocate for every child under his care in a school of about six hundred students, Mr. McDonald meets with struggling students to discuss grades and opportunities at the end of each nine weeks. Working with a guidance counselor, he created a club that takes students on field trips to colleges around the State. He launched a “second‑chance cafe,” where students can make up tests and school work. In addition, before report cards are sent out, he takes them home and writes a personal note to every student; and

Whereas, under Mr. McDonald’s leadership, in 2010 and 2012 Indian Land Middle School was one of the few middle schools from among the state’s two hundred fifty middle schools to be named a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. This national recognition is given to middle schools that embody the intersection of academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structure; and

Whereas, this honor came on top of others, including the Red Carpet Award for providing family and community friendly services and programming, Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards for academic achievement and for closing the achievement gap, being named a South Carolina School of Character for excellence in character development, and for Promising Practices Character Awards for implementing unique and specific strategies in character education; and

Whereas, it is appropriate for members of the House of Representatives to pause in their deliberations so that they may add their voices to the well‑deserved chorus of congratulations and best wishes being showered on David McDonald, newly named 2012 South Carolina Middle School Principal of the Year. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate David McDonald, principal of Indian Land Middle School in Lancaster County School District, on being named 2012 South Carolina Middle School Principal of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to David McDonald.

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