**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND HONOR CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT’S LAING MIDDLE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON BEING NAMED A FINALIST FOR THE 2015 FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (FETC) STEM EXCELLENCE AWARDS.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to learn that Charleston County School District’s Laing Middle School of Science and Technology was named a 2015 finalist for the coveted FETC STEM Excellence Awards; and

Whereas, the awards were created to recognize excellence and innovation in the field of STEM education at the primary, middle, and high school levels, with nominees and winners selected from each level. The FETC STEM Advisory Board evaluated over a hundred finalist applications and chose Laing as one of the “Top 10” STEM programs in the nation and one of the top three such programs for the nation’s middle schools; and

Whereas, STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. Award finalists were evaluated based on the use of interdisciplinary curriculum, collaboration, design, problem solving, and the STEM experiences offered by each school; and

Whereas, Laing Middle’s STEM coach, Dr. Mel Goodwin, is to be commended for his outstanding work with his school’s STEM program; and

Whereas, to formally recognize Laing Middle School and the other STEM Award finalists, a celebratory ceremony was held on January 22, 2015, during the National FETC Conference; and

Whereas, fully expecting continued academic excellence from this standout school, the General Assembly is proud to recognize the fine educational achievement of 2015 STEM Excellence Awards finalist Laing Middle School. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate and honor Charleston County School District’s Laing Middle School of Science and Technology on being named a finalist for the 2015 Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) STEM Excellence Awards.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Principal James Whitehair of Laing Middle School.

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