**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR LUGOFF‑ELGIN MIDDLE SCHOOL OF KERSHAW COUNTY AND TO CONGRATULATE THE ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS FOR BEING CHOSEN AS A 2019 NATIONAL “SCHOOL TO WATCH.”

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that Lugoff‑Elgin Middle School in Lugoff has been designated as a “School to Watch” by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle‑Grades Reform for the fourth time; and

Whereas, in 1999, the National Forum to Accelerate Middle‑Grades Reform launched the “Schools to Watch” initiative, in order to identify schools across the country on the way to meeting the Forum’s criteria for high performance through academic excellence, by challenging all students to use their minds well; through developmental responsiveness, by being sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence; and through social equity, by being democratic and fair, providing every student with high‑quality teachers, resources, and supports; and

Whereas, these high‑performing schools establish norms, structures, and organizational arrangements to support and sustain their trajectory toward excellence with a sense of purpose that drives every facet of practice and decision‑making; and

Whereas, at Lugoff‑Elgin Middle School, students play an active role in their achievement of academic excellence through goal setting and reflection during a weekly advisory period where they create and develop individualized academic portfolios. In the STEM program, students are engaged with critical thinking, problem‑solving, and creative and collaborative skills. The school’s “Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports” program helps students achieve social, emotional, and academic success while all students participate in a class called SPOT (Show respect, Practice safety, Organize yourself, Take responsibility) that supports school‑wide behavioral expectations; and

Whereas, to date, only twenty middle schools in South Carolina have earned the “Schools To Watch” award. Having first been recognized in 2007, Lugoff‑Elgin Middle School is the first school in the state to be named as a “School to Watch” while earning the honor every three years thereafter. Furthermore, they are the only South Carolina school to have been recognized by the National Forum to Accelerated Middle‑Grades Reform five times; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly values the pride and recognition that Lugoff‑Elgin Middle School has brought to its community and to the Palmetto State through this prestigious honor, and the members look to hear of the continued success of the students and faculty in the days to come. 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, recognize and honor Lugoff‑Elgin Middle School of Kershaw County and congratulate the administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents for being chosen as a 2019 National “School to Watch.”

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Gene Cameron.

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