

## 2013-J563

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Rodger L. Yem upon the occasion of being named Student of the Year by the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to take notice of and acknowledge those individuals who have distinguished themselves through their exemplary pursuit of education as adults; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rodger L. Yem upon the occasion of being named Student of the Year by the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education, Inc., to be celebrated at its 30th Annual Awards and Legislative Event on March 5-6, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Thoeun Yem, also known by his American name of Rodger, is an immigrant from Cambodia who came to Madison-Oneida BOCES Literacy Zone to get his General Education Diploma in 2010; before that, he lived in south Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and left school in his junior year where he began to hang out with a fast and dangerous group of kids headed for trouble; and

WHEREAS, Becoming somewhat disruptive and having to move out of his parents' house, the streets of South Philadelphia became Rodger Yem's life; his mother had always taught him an important lesson on how to strive and to always do his very best; this manner of succeeding in all areas of pursuit helped him with obtaining the necessary skills and perseverance to endure what would help him during his teenage years and young adult life; and

WHEREAS, Even while participating in prohibited activities Rodger Yem always had a secret desire to finish school and get his high school diploma, and periodically he would find his way into a program only to have the negative lifestyle pull him back; and

WHEREAS, Later on, Rodger Yem moved to the Utica, New York area and his life began to change for the better by finding a job, settling down and having a family; he enrolled in the local GED program at BOCES and at first found it to be difficult; and

WHEREAS, Being out of school for some time made comprehension difficult for Rodger Yem; he had problems with reading and math; since

English is his second language, he had an additional barrier causing him to work twice as hard to understand the material; and  
WHEREAS, Rodger Yem worked hard and passed the exam and received his General Education Diploma; in addition, while attaining his GED, he simultaneously studied for his United States citizenship and it was granted to him a month after earning his diploma; and  
WHEREAS, Rodger Yem is employed at Federal Sheet Metal and his math knowledge has assisted him in calculating measurements for duct work installation; he credits his teachers and caseworkers for all the guidance they gave him while attending classes and hopes that one day he too can be an inspiration to those that will seek his help; and  
WHEREAS, Rodger Yem feels that this profession will allow him to encourage young men and women who may be going through difficult times to see that they too can find positive ways to respond to problems and not seek out negative solutions to their issues as he did; and  
WHEREAS, Recently, Rodger Yem went back to South Philadelphia to save his younger brother Dann; he learned that Dann had joined the local gangs and was headed for trouble; and  
WHEREAS, Rodger Yem brought Dann home to live in Utica, and got him enrolled in the same GED class; Dann also passed and earned his diploma; he too is now going to Mohawk Valley Community College studying Psychology; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Rodger Yem's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, Throughout all of his life struggles and schooling, Rodger Yem may now stand with just pride in assessing his achievements, experiencing the satisfaction of his labors and the joy of his accomplishments, eager to face the challenge of new ventures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Rodger L. Yem upon the occasion of being named Student of the Year by the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rodger L. Yem.