

2015-J399

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Clara Birch upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education 2015 Student of the Year Award

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Clara Birch upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education 2015 Student of the Year Award at its 32nd Annual Student Awards and Legislative Event on March 11, 2015, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, New York Association for Continuing/Community Education (NYACCE) represents adult education professionals with its primary missions of maintaining and expanding education and training opportunities for undereducated adults throughout New York State; and

WHEREAS, NYACCE strives to ensure that the opportunities afforded to these students continue to be available, and that additional adults in need of these services continue to be served without barriers; it is well understood individuals who continue their education have a greater chance of improving their employment and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Clara Birch understands the value of education and the challenges and hardships that are sometimes faced when trying to obtain that education; and

WHEREAS, Clara Birch dropped out of high school in ninth grade and worked part-time to support her two children; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Clara Birch realized she needed to continue her education, so she enrolled in the Hamilton Fulton Montgomery (HFM) BOCES

and participated in the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) class in order to earn a New York State High School Equivalency Diploma; and WHEREAS, Clara Birch won a Scholarship to attend the WE LEARN (Women Expanding: Literacy Education Action Resource Network) Conference in Providence, Rhode Island; she found the experience to be empowering as a learner and a woman; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her time at HFM BOCES, Clara Birch attended class regularly and fully participated in the learning process; while earning her education, she worked for numerous years at Price Chopper, and as a Home Health Aide; and

WHEREAS, Clara Birch was a model student who eagerly learned, and helped other students; in 2014, she proudly merited her diploma and plans on furthering her education in the health field; and

WHEREAS, Clara Birch is an active volunteer for the Ladies Auxiliary for fire departments within her community, supporting firemen and crocheting blankets as well as fundraising for worthy causes, and bringing holiday cheer to residents of local nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to commend individuals of outstanding character, who have shown initiative and commitment toward constantly pursuing higher goals for themselves, and acting as role models of leadership to be emulated by their peers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Clara Birch upon her designation as recipient of the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education 2015 Student of the Year Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Clara Birch.