

2015-J1177

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Norberto "Junito" Allende upon the occasion of his 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 honor Norberto "Junito" Allende upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education 2015 Student of the Year Award; 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, Norberto Allende understands the value of education and the challenges and hardships that can be faced while trying to obtain that education; and

WHEREAS, At the young age of five, Norberto Allende and his family re-located from Puerto Rico to New York City; growing up in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, he found himself surrounded by drugs, alcohol, and violence; he was often bullied because of his accent and for not having the right clothes; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, after overcoming much adversity, 21-year-old Norberto Allende found Turning Point; staff could clearly see his sense of responsibility, and his motivation to pass the GED and start a career; and

WHEREAS, As the sole provider for his household, he was responsible for caring for his younger sisters; he had to balance work schedules and school, as well as the turbulent personal growth inherent in all young people his age; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, Norberto Allende returned to Turning Point to finish his GED; through his avid intellectual curiosity, he recommitted himself to attending classes and tutoring other students; in December of that year, he earned his certificate; and

WHEREAS, In the Spring of 2014, Norberto Allende proudly gave the commencement address at his graduation ceremony; his main focus in his speech was "My struggles aren't just my struggles, they're my community's struggles; I'm up here for all of us"; and

WHEREAS, Norberto Allende started his first semester at City University of New York at Kingsborough Community College in the Fall of 2014; today, he is successfully putting all of the hard earned lessons to good use in his studies; 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 Norberto "Junito" Allende upon his 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 Norberto "Junito" Allende.