

2015-J1549

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Melissa Aquirre upon the occasion of her selection to participate in the NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors Program

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend and pay tribute to those teachers who, by achieving outstanding success in their educational and scientific endeavors, have inspired and brought pride to our majestic Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Melissa Aquirre upon the occasion of her selection to participate in the NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors Program; and

WHEREAS, Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors is a professional development program aspiring to improve teaching, inspire students, and inform the community; it seeks to encourage scientific literacy and STEM education, most notably in schools from underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Aquirre is a native of Queens, New York, and an educator at J.H.S. 217 Robert Van Wyck, where she teaches English Language Arts and English as a Second Language; and

WHEREAS, One of 28 teachers from across the country to be selected by Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors, Melissa Aquirre will travel and work side-by-side with NASA astronomers following various stages of scientific research including preparations, data analysis and publication; and

WHEREAS, As part of her research efforts during this time, Melissa Aquirre will experience two 10-hour overnight science mission flights on NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy; and

WHEREAS, Using infrared light and the world's largest airborne telescope, Melissa Aquirre will study such areas of astrophysics as the formation of stars and planets, the chemistry of interstellar gases, the

composition of comets, and supermassive black holes at the center of galaxies; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of this prestigious program, Melissa Aquirre will work on launching a STEM club at her school and collaborate with fellow science teachers on utilizing her experiences for the benefit of future classroom lessons and presentations; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable talent and character whose endeavors have enhanced the growth of education in the great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Melissa Aquirre upon the occasion of her selection to participate in the NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Melissa Aquirre.