

2015-J1780

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D. upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Academy of Talented Scholars on May 17, 2015

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals in the teaching profession who distinguish themselves in their dedication and commitment to their students; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D. upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Academy of Talented Scholars, to be celebrated at its 2015 Gala on Sunday, May 17, 2015, at Rex Manor Catering Hall, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Cohen graduated from Hunter College High School, New York City, and went on to earn her degree in Elementary Education and Psychology from Brooklyn College; while a student, she was inducted into the exclusive Phi Beta Kappa honor society; and

WHEREAS, Furthering her education, Shirley Cohen attended the Bank Street College of Education, New York City, with a concentration in counseling; in addition, she earned both her Master's degree and Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Teacher's College at Columbia University, New York City; and

WHEREAS, While a student at Teacher's College, Shirley Cohen was the recipient of the Walter H. Patterson Scholarship in Developmental Psychology; and

WHEREAS, Prior to becoming employed at Hunter College, New York City, Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D. held various teaching positions, including

three years at a research and treatment center for children with autism, and two years as both a Helping Teacher and Curriculum Developer in a program for children with emotional problems; and

WHEREAS, From 1971-1981, Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D. held the esteemed position of Director of the Special Education Development Center, a support facility at Hunter College for a statewide network of special education training centers; and

WHEREAS, Between 1978-2005, Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D. served in several administrative roles at Hunter College, including Program Coordinator and Chairperson of the Department of Special Education, Associate Dean of Programs in Education, Assistant Dean of the School of Education, and Interim Dean of the School of Education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D. directed numerous grant projects with funding from city, state, federal, and private foundation sources; in addition, she served as the first Director of the Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Hunter College, and co-developed the ASD Nest program and the Intensive Kindergarten program for the New York City Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this remarkable woman has been directing training programs for new staff of these vital programs since 2005, and has served as a mentor to numerous teachers and young leaders in the field of autism spectrum disorders; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D. began publishing journal articles, and since then she has written or co-written numerous articles; she is also the author of three books on disability, including TARGETING AUTISM, which was originally published in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D. provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of

young people in their educational journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her career thus far, Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D. has

brought an uncompromising standard of excellence to her work and a warm sense of caring and concern to every young person she educates; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D. upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Academy of Talented Scholars; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Shirley Cohen, Ph.D.