

2015-J4211

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the New Visions: Law & Government Class, a program of the Capital Region BOCES upon the occasion of capturing First Place in the New York State We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution competition and qualifying for the 2016 National Competition

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend young people who, by achieving outstanding success in an educational competition, inspire and bring pride to themselves and to their school, their community, and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the New Visions: Law & Government Class, a program of the Capital Region BOCES, upon the occasion of capturing First Place in the New York State We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution competition, and qualifying for the 2016 National Competition on Saturday, February 27, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Each year, schools from around the country participate in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program, an intensive curriculum which provides students with a fundamental understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, emphasizing critical thinking, analysis and writing; and

WHEREAS, For the second consecutive year, the New Visions: Law & Government Class has won the We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution New York State Finals; the team's 11 dedicated students were victorious over nearly 150 students from five other regional Champion teams from across New York state; and

WHEREAS, New Visions: Law & Government is a college-level career-exploration program for academically-competitive high school seniors which

offers AP credit and integrates college credit through the State University of New York at Albany's High School Program; and

WHEREAS, These dynamic students also participate in both mock trials and congressional hearings, and visit with many judges and lawyers over the course of the year; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, New Visions students are placed in internships where they can gain real-life experience and career insight in places such as the Albany County District Attorney's Office, various State courts, the State Legislature, and numerous public and private interest and advocacy organizations; and

WHEREAS, The outstanding members of the New Visions: Law & Government Class Team have devoted hours of their free time after school and during vacations to perfecting their opening statements and to preparing for the competition's six minute period of spontaneous follow-up questions; and

WHEREAS, To win the state competition, the members of the New Visions: Law & Government program testified before panels of judges to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles in a simulated congressional hearing; they also evaluated and defended positions on relevant historic and contemporary issues while explaining the philosophical and historical foundations on which the American political system is based; and

WHEREAS, With this victory, the New Visions: Law & Government Class Team will move on to compete against the top teams from throughout the other 49 states and the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C., from April 22-25, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The members of the New Visions: Law & Government Class Team, ably guided by Instructor Richard Bader, Esq., include Julian Schlemmer,

Mutaz Ali, Alex Wilgock, Gabrielle Agostino, Morgan Daignault, Margaret Richards, Katie Gibson, Kyle Hurysz, Mathilda Scott, Keenan Loder and Daniel Sonthivongnorath; and

WHEREAS, Poised eagerly with enthusiasm and determined purpose, these young scholars now stand honorably, with just pride in their achievement and in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the caring counsel and support provided by their teachers, instructors, and parents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the New Visions: Law & Government Class, a program of the Capital Region BOCES, upon the occasion of capturing First Place in the New York State We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution competition and to offer them best wishes in the 2016 National Competition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New Visions: Law & Government Class, and Instructor Richard Bader, Esq.