

## 2011-J627

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Mahirwe Dina Ndeze upon the occasion of being named Student of the Year by the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to take notice and publicly acknowledge 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 commend Mahirwe Dina Ndeze upon the occasion of being named Student of the Year by the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education, Inc., at its 28th Annual Student Awards and Legislative Event on March 8-9, 2011 in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze understands better than anyone the value of education and the challenges and obstacles that are faced by some trying to obtain that education, particularly as an adult; and

WHEREAS, Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze came to the United States in August of 2008, with her three brothers, her sister-in-law, and their young children; and

WHEREAS, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze has 11 years of formal education, eight of which she obtained while living in a refugee camp in Uganda; and

WHEREAS, Prior to living in the refugee camp, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze's life was difficult due to the civil unrest throughout the Congo which made achieving an education impossible, as she and her family spent their days fearing for their lives and hiding and looking for food, clothing and shelter; and

WHEREAS, Upon arriving in the United States, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze enrolled in a construction trades program that included English as a Second Language instruction; and

WHEREAS, Soon after, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze enrolled in a certified nursing assistant program supported by English as a Second Language instruction in the Syracuse City School District through the Sidney Johnson Vocational Center; and

WHEREAS, After passing the certification on the first attempt, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze found employment at James Square Health and Rehabilitation Center as a certified nursing assistant; and

WHEREAS, As a leader in the Congolese community in Syracuse, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze has tried to unite the different tribes that are in conflict back in the Congo; and

WHEREAS, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze encourages other Congolese refugees to improve their reading and writing skills in their native language so they can have an easier time learning to communicate in English, obtain employment, and support their families; and

WHEREAS, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze continues to be enrolled in adult education courses through the North Literacy Zone in the Syracuse City School District and is now enrolled in Pre-GED instruction with the goal of receiving her GED, and then enrolling in a Licensed Practical Nursing Program; and

WHEREAS, A vibrant, intelligent and caring young woman, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze has demonstrated integrity and honor while using adult education programming to change the course of her entire future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mahirwe Dina Ndeze on the occasion of being named Student of the Year by the New York Association of Continuing/Community Education, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mahirwe Dina Ndeze.