

2013-J5593

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Arlene Lev upon the occasion of being selected to receive the 2014 University at Albany President's Award for Exemplary Community Engagement on April 25, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Arlene Lev, LCSW-R, Lecturer, School of Social Welfare, University at Albany, upon the occasion of being selected to receive the 2014 University at Albany President's Award for Exemplary Community Engagement, which was celebrated at an Award Ceremony at the University at Albany, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed award honors University at Albany-community partnerships which are enhancing public well-being in the Capital Region and beyond; their community engagement is a collaboration between higher education institutions and external partners in the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources to address areas of public need; and

WHEREAS, For almost 30 years, Arlene Lev has used community-engaged research and teaching approaches to aid the region's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) community, and train future mental health professionals; and

WHEREAS, With an emphasis on serving disenfranchised members of the community, Arlene Lev has developed services integral to LGBTQ health care, created training programs for community and university audiences, and advocated on wide-ranging issues of health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Among her groundbreaking initiatives, Arlene Lev helped found Center Support Counseling, through the Pride Center in partnership with the School of Social Welfare, to provide low-cost counseling for the LGBTQ community while also serving to train social work interns; she also founded Rainbow Access Initiative to reduce LGBTQ health disparities; and

WHEREAS, During her illustrious career at University at Albany, Arlene Lev launched an advanced clinical course focused on LGBTQ needs; The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Project aims to improve the cultural-competency of professionals working with the LGBTQ community, providing specialized coursework and field placement opportunities for Social Welfare students; and

WHEREAS, Partners for this effort have included: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Project; Pride Center of the Capital Region; In Our Own Voices; Rainbow Access Initiative; The Empire Conference; Crime Victims and Sexual Violence Center; NYS Northeast Division National Association of Social Workers; and Pride and Joy Families; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Arlene Lev upon the occasion of being selected to receive the 2014 University at Albany President's Award for Exemplary Community Engagement on April 25, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Arlene Lev.