

2013-J5594

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Small Business Development Center, University at Albany, 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 the Small Business Development Center, University at Albany, and affiliates School of Business, University at Albany, and the New York State Small Business Development Center, 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, Since 1984, University at Albany's Small Business Development Center has provided exemplary community service, helping more than 21,400 entrepreneurs access a significant amount of funds in capital, and creating or saving over 10,825 jobs in the region; and

WHEREAS, In 2009 and 2013, the University at Albany's Small Business Development Center was ranked among the top 10 Small Business Develop-

ment Centers in the nation by the United States Small Business Administration for the innovative way it champions small businesses while providing programs and services for entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of William Brigham, the Small Business Development Center's initiatives strengthen economic opportunities in an 11-county service area, as well as educational opportunities at the University at Albany; and

WHEREAS, Among the innovative programs the Small Business Development Center is involved with are: a character-based microloan fund to grow small businesses (SEED), the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, the Veterans Business Outreach Program, and others that directly address local economic development needs; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Small Business Development Center, University at Albany has counseled regional small businesses about the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, Through partnerships with chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and local lenders, the Small Business Development Center maintains nine active outreach locations, expanding access for business assistance in the region; campus partners are the School of Business, and the School of Social Welfare; and

WHEREAS, Additional partners have included: lending institutions, economic development organizations, state and county agencies, and such chambers as: the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce; Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber; the Chamber of Schenectady County; the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County; and the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce; 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 the Small Business Development Center, University at Albany, 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 the Small Business Development Center, University at Albany.