

## 2015-J2653

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 2015 National Competition

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 2015 National Competition; and

WHEREAS, For the first time in the 28-year history of this prestigious competition, a Capital Region team has won the We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution New York State Finals; the 10 dedicated students competed against, and defeated nearly 150 students from five other regional Champion teams, ranging from 12-36 students from Long Island, New York City, and Western New York; and

WHEREAS, From April 24-27, 2015, the accomplished New Visions Law & Government Class Team competed against top teams from the other 49 states and the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C., and are to be commended for their accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, Each year, schools from across the country participate in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program, sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, is an intensive curriculum which

provides students with a fundamental understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, Students who participate in the competition must learn all of the intricacies involved in the creation and application of the U.S.

Constitution, beginning with the Constitution's foundation in Enlightenment thinking and Colonial history and extending to the ways in which all of its Articles and Amendments have historically been and currently are implemented by the executive, legislative and judicial branches of both national and state governments; and

WHEREAS, Each team is comprised of six units, each focusing on a particular area of Constitutional interest, from the philosophical underpinnings and Constitutional Convention to modern day implications; in preparing themselves for the competition, the students must become experts on the text of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, United States history, Supreme Court decisions, and current world events to meet the demands of the program and each tier of competition; and

WHEREAS, Since the inception of the program in 1987, more than 28 million students, and 90,000 educators have partaken in its instructional program, and over 30,000 students and 1,000 teachers have participated in the National Finals; over the years, more than 10,000 parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors have traveled to Washington, D.C., to celebrate the accomplishments of the students; and

WHEREAS, At the regional and state levels students demonstrate their knowledge and critical thinking skills in one round of competition in front of a single panel of three judges; at the national level, students participate in at least two rounds of competition and the top ten teams compete in a third round; and

WHEREAS, New Visions Law & Government is a college-level career-exploration program for academically-competitive high school seniors which offers college as well as AP credit and integrates AP United States Government & Politics with English, Law, and Economics; the class inte-

grates college credit through the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany's High School Program (UHS); and

WHEREAS, The 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, 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; the program emphasizes critical thinking, analysis and writing; 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, The New Visions Law & Government Class We the People Team, ably guided by Instructor Richard Bader, Esq., includes Kenneth Stevenson, Austin Czechowski, Keily Linger, Keefe Watson, Vincent Caruso, Emily Taylor, Thomas Fisher, David Simon, Emilia Sacco, and Jeremy Clement; and

WHEREAS, Poised eagerly with enthusiasm and determined purpose, these 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, coach 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 qualifying for the 2015 National Competition, and to offer them best wishes in the National Competition as well as for a future of

purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

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