

2015-J4703

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the InvenTeam from Berlin High School upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Grant on October 14, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is also the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the dedication and commitment of our young people who distinguish themselves through excellence in science and academic competition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the inventors from Berlin High School upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Grant; and

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, October 14, 2015, Lemelson-MIT announced Berlin High School was one of only 14 schools nationwide that would receive up to \$10,000 each in grant funding as part of its 2015-2016 InvenTeam initiative to inspire young people to solve real-world problems through invention; and

WHEREAS, InvenTeams were selected across the Nation from technology schools, magnet schools and an all-girls school; and

WHEREAS, The InvenTeam initiative aims to inspire a new generation of inventors by engaging students in creative thinking, problem-solving and hands-on learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and

WHEREAS, Berlin High School's InvenTeam consists of ninth graders, Greta Herman and Melanie DeLaurentis; 10th graders, Amanda Despart, Domnika Popov, and Giannah French; 11th graders, Samantha Hebert and

Christina Shupe; and 12th graders, Emma Woolley and Laura Ryder; and WHEREAS, The scientific talent displayed by this team is due in great part to the efforts of their Technology Teacher, Dawn Wetmore, a skilled and inspirational tutor, respected for her ability to develop potential into excellence; and

WHEREAS, Under Dawn Wetmore's tutelage, students from Berlin High School have made quite a splash on the regional and national stage when it comes to ingenuity; in 2010-11, students won a similar Lemelson-MIT grant to develop an alert device for hearing impaired athletes; and

WHEREAS, Last school year, a device Dawn Wetmore's students developed to warn parents when their children approach a roadway was selected as the New York State winner of the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest, earning their school a \$20,000 technology grant; and

WHEREAS, All of the InvenTeams chosen for 2015-16 are working on inventions which address problems they have recognized in their local communities and those with global impact; Berlin High School's team will use their grant to develop a prototype they designed to give individuals with limited mobility the ability to toss and retrieve an item; and

WHEREAS, Their innovative device is comprised of three components, a control console that can be easily attached to the arms of a wheelchair, a robotic rolling chassis, and a mechanical arm; the control console contains a joystick control for the robot chassis, a separate joystick control for the mechanical arm, and a lever launch mechanism that, when struck, will launch a bean bag or a small ball in a forward trajectory and will automatically reset for subsequent launches; and

WHEREAS, The mechanical arm is mounted onto the robot chassis, which together will allow the user to pilot the arm over to the launched item, pick it up, and retrieve it using the joystick controls; and

WHEREAS, Educational competitions which serve to better prepare our students for their future participation in the marketplace of ideas are worthy of praise and support; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the InvenTeam from Berlin High School upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Grant on October 14, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the Berlin High School InvenTeam and Teacher, Dawn Wetmore.