

2017-J5879

Senate Resolution No. 5879

BY: Senator MONTGOMERY

COMMEMORATING the 15th Anniversary of the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, and paying special tribute to its Founding Partners on October 11, 2018

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishment clearly demonstrate an enduring pursuit of excellence in the education of the youth of the Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, and to pay tribute to its Founding Partners on Thursday, October 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS, The Urban Assembly New York Harbor School (Harbor School) is a small, public high school, created in 2003 through the New York City Department of Education's New Century High Schools Initiative, with a four-year New Visions for Public Schools implementation grant from the Gates Foundation, Open Society Foundation, and Carnegie Foundation; and

WHEREAS, The Harbor School was borne out of the belief that New York City youth, the natural resources of New York Harbor, and the New York

metropolitan community collectively formed an untapped potential for excellence in secondary public education; and

WHEREAS, The challenge was bringing those resources to the students in the classroom, and extending the classroom to include those resources through a system which meets all state standards; and

WHEREAS, As a public school, Harbor School is funded by the city and state, but also relies on significant annual funding from the Billion Oyster Project to support its students through all of the waterfront, career & technical educational programs, and summer and afterschool program; and

WHEREAS, The success of this educational model relied on four principles: the marine world provides an ideal forum for education based on excellence, discipline and interdependence; hands-on, inquiry-based learning in a natural environment stimulates students' curiosity and leads to improved engagement and academic performance; given the right environment and expectations, the students from the districts this school served have within themselves the desire and intellect to reach the highest academic standards; and small schools with increased personalization and alternative assessment systems create an environment more conducive to learning, graduation and, ultimately, successful and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, The Harbor School began with a faculty of eight, along with founding Principal Nathan Dudley, Co-founder Murray Fisher, and 125 students on the fourth floor of the former Bushwick High School in Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, The school moved to Governors Island in 2010, and in 2013,

after a five year capital campaign, Harbor School expanded to include a new waterfront Marine Affairs, Science and Technology (MAST) Center; and

WHEREAS, As sophomores, students at Harbor School select one of seven Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs: Aquaculture, Marine Biology and Research, Marine Systems Technology, Marine Policy and Advocacy, Ocean Engineering, Professional Diving, and Vessel Operations; and

WHEREAS, These hands-on programs qualify them to graduate with relevant certifications in marine science and technology fields, which include an array of work-based learning experiences that extend students' education from the classroom into the real world; and

WHEREAS, Today, Harbor School educates more than 500 students, many of whom graduate and go on to two or four year colleges; others transition directly into jobs in the New York Harbor and beyond; and

WHEREAS, During its 15th Anniversary celebration, the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School will pay special tribute to its founding partners: The Urban Assembly, New York City (NYC) Department of Education, United Federation of Teachers, New Visions for Public Schools, South Street Seaport Museum and Waterkeeper Alliance; and

WHEREAS, The Urban Assembly is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering underserved youth by providing them with the academic and life skills necessary for postsecondary success; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Mayor Bloomberg took control of the NYC Department of Education and implemented a massive initiative to create more than 200 new small public high schools; Harbor School was among the first wave of schools created; and

WHEREAS, United Federation of Teachers (UFT) is committed to strengthening communities, the teaching profession and the lives of its members and students; UFT has steadfastly supported the Harbor School, working in the best interests of its students; and

WHEREAS, New Visions for Public Schools designs, creates and sustains great schools for New York City's highest need students; since 1989, the organization has served as a laboratory of innovation within the city's public schools, driving significant achievement gains for countless students; and

WHEREAS, The South Street Seaport Museum has provided Harbor School with classroom space, office space and waterfront space, all of which were critical to the early success of the school; and

WHEREAS, Waterkeeper Alliance strengthens and grows a global network of grassroots leaders, protecting everyone's right to clean water; they are the largest and fastest growing nonprofit solely focused on clean water; and

WHEREAS, Billion Oyster project, the non-profit organization formerly known as New York Harbor Foundation, is pleased to host this important anniversary celebration, honoring Harbor School's founders and

supporters and celebrating 15 years of growth and success using New York's maritime experience to support and improve outcomes for every public school student; and

WHEREAS, The Harbor School has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for the quality of educational programs and opportunities offered for the benefit of its faculty and students as well as for the

entire community; and

WHEREAS, The Harbor School is proudly aware of its distinguished past, eager to fulfill its present commitment to parents, students and the community, and planning with vision and purpose for the ebb and swell of growth and change it will encounter in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, and to pay special tribute to its Founding Partners; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School and the aforementioned Founding Partners.