

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Spencer J. Kiper upon receipt of the 2019 Louisiana Teacher of the Year award from the Louisiana Department of Education and to recognize his many contributions to education and the teaching profession.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate at this time that the Legislature of Louisiana acknowledges the exuberance and expertise that STEM educator, Spencer Kiper, brings to the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Spencer Kiper is an education specialist in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) enrichment curricula at Elm Grove Middle School in Bossier City, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kiper is the first Bossier Parish teacher to win the overall Teacher of the Year recognition and he will represent the state of Louisiana in the 2019 National Teacher of the Year competition; and

WHEREAS, Spencer Kiper is an exceptional faculty member who has made prodigious efforts to create a stronger cyber-technology presence in Northwest Louisiana, to develop a more positive classroom environment with meaningful objectives to promote student growth and STEM proficiency, and to curate learning opportunities that instill industry-based skills and knowledge in his students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kiper is a proud graduate of the Bossier Parish School System and has praised those educators who made an impact on his scholastic life and inspired him to become a teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kiper possesses creditable academic credentials that include an Associate's degree in General Studies from Bossier Parish Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in English and Biology Education from LSU-S, a Master of Education in Educational Technology from the American College of Education, graduate-level course work at

Louisiana Tech University with emphasis in STEM and Cyber Education, and a Master of Arts in Education, Administration, and Supervision from the University of Phoenix; and

WHEREAS, as a certified STEM education instructor, Mr. Kiper has developed study units in robotics, 3D printing and manufacturing, aerospace technology, electronics, computer science, and similar hands-on educational modules; and

WHEREAS, while providing extraordinary motivation in the classroom, Spencer Kiper embraces the responsibility as an educator to demonstrate leadership at every level, as a leadership committee member for Elm Grove Middle School, as an iSTEM initiative workshop facilitator for the Caddo Parish School District, as a statewide Educator Voice Louisiana Fellow, and as a national staff member for Aerospace Education with the Civil Air Patrol; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kiper has been honored with numerous awards and recognitions that include Henry Ford Innovator of the Year, National Aerospace Teacher of the Year from the Civil Air Patrol, Educator Crew Wings from the United States Space & Rocket Center, 2014 Teacher of the Year from Elm Grove Middle School, state and regional Middle School Teacher of the Year from the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators, and an Educators at Space Academy Fellowship from Honeywell International; and

WHEREAS, Spencer Kiper also provides instruction as an adjunct professor of education at LSU-S in the fields of Educational Technology and STEM curricula; and

WHEREAS, he received an invitation from STEM Revolution to assist in the implementation of a STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) training initiative in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of the United Arab Emirates in Dubai; and

WHEREAS, STEM curriculum objectives purport to teach students how to approach solutions to solve complex problems, develop effective communication skills, and engage in a variety of meaningful ways with fellow students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kiper promotes these goals with inspiration and encouragement that challenges his students to develop a lifelong interest in learning and to acquire those analytical skills necessary to become effective decision makers; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2018, Spencer Kiper and other state-level honorees were

celebrated at the Twelfth Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala; and

WHEREAS, the annual competition, hosted by the Louisiana State Department of Education and the Dream Teachers nonprofit organization, recognizes several categories of outstanding individual achievement in classroom instruction and school administration; it exemplifies the highest honor bestowed on state educators by the department; and

WHEREAS, by upholding the highest standards of the teaching profession, Spencer Kiper is most worthy of this prestigious award; he embodies excellence in instruction for his chosen curriculum and devotion to the academic needs of his students; and

WHEREAS, Spencer Kiper has proved to be a superb educator with a myriad of talents whose dedication to STEM education has been a priceless gift to the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Spencer J. Kiper upon receipt of the 2019 Teacher of the Year award from the Louisiana Department of Education and does hereby recognize his many contributions to further STEM education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Spencer Kiper, Principal Jennifer Armond of Elm Grove Middle School, and Superintendent Mitch Downey of the Bossier Parish School System.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES