

2009 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 989

Offered February 20, 2009

Commending Escuela Bolivia, Inc., on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

Patrons—Ebbin, Brink and Eisenberg

WHEREAS, Escuela Bolivia, Inc., an outstanding nonprofit organization located in Arlington, is recognized for its dedicated service to immigrant families and the Northern Virginia community; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 a group of 100 Bolivian parents met with the superintendent of Arlington Public Schools to establish a Saturday school so that children could learn Spanish and accelerate their learning of other subjects, as well as to offer parents the opportunity to learn English; and

WHEREAS, Escuela Bolivia, Inc., was founded to meet the needs of Arlington's growing immigrant Latino population and to address the achievement gap between Latino and other students; and

WHEREAS, Escuela Bolivia, Inc., has had tremendous success in strengthening bilingualism through language, culture, and social constructs by providing educational classes and activities for students and adults; and

WHEREAS, Escuela Bolivia's students have increased the number of correct responses on the Standards of Learning (SOL) mathematics test from 49.5 percent to 73 percent; and

WHEREAS, Escuela Bolivia, Inc., helps to increase students' opportunities for higher education by providing classes for students and parents, access to computers and other educational tools, counseling, and financial aid workshops; and

WHEREAS, Escuela Bolivia, Inc., has reached out to parents and other adults in the Arlington area by offering adult computing and English classes, helping to change the image of adult education in the community to a positive one; and

WHEREAS, for 10 years, Escuela Bolivia, Inc., has worked diligently to achieve its mission "to provide and strengthen linguistic and cultural values and to improve the academic achievement of its students—children, youth and adults—so that they may gain better opportunities to improve their lives and their community"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Escuela Bolivia, Inc., on the occasion of its 10th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Escuela Bolivia, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation of the nonprofit organization's many achievements and best wishes for continued success in the future.

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