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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5060

Offered April 22, 2014

Commending Thomas Harrison Middle School STEM Explorations Academy.

Patron—Wilt; Senator: Obenshain

WHEREAS, Thomas Harrison Middle School STEM Explorations Academy in Harrisonburg received the Program Excellence Award from the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association at the organization's annual conference in March 2014; and

WHEREAS, also named the top middle school program in the Commonwealth by the Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association in 2013, Thomas Harrison Middle School STEM Explorations Academy was one of three academies launched by Harrisonburg City Public Schools for the 2012 - 2013 academic year; and

WHEREAS, the Program Excellence Award from the Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association recognizes programs that have made outstanding contributions to students and the field, with selection based on a site visit, student performance and growth, curriculum, faculty qualifications, parental involvement, and administrative support; and

WHEREAS, the Program Excellence Award from the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association is one of the highest honors given to science and technology education programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels; Thomas Harrison Middle School STEM Explorations Academy was one of only 30 schools in the world to receive the prestigious award in 2014; and

WHEREAS, with a goal to promote interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and prepare students for careers in those fields, Thomas Harrison Middle School STEM Explorations Academy accepts 40 rising seventh graders to an innovative two-year program; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Harrison Middle School STEM Explorations Academy students participate in guided and inquiry-based science labs, individual and group research projects, and guided science activities, then plan, build, and test designs to solve engineering challenges; the program also includes a leadership element, with students running for and holding class offices; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Harrison Middle School STEM Explorations Academy is led by five experienced and highly professional faculty members: Greg Corder, William Stansberry, Stephanie Nelson, Daniel Kirwan, and Amy Sabarre; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Thomas Harrison Middle School STEM Explorations Academy on receiving the Program Excellence Award from the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Greg Corder, coordinator of Thomas Harrison Middle School STEM Explorations Academy, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the program's work to give students the tools to make the Commonwealth a leader in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

INTRODUCED

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