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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 273

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled January 6, 2017

*Commending Centra Rivermont Schools.*

Patron—Newman

WHEREAS, Centra Rivermont Schools, Virginia's largest private, nonprofit system of schools serving school-age children with disabilities, marked the 30th anniversary of its founding in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Centra Rivermont Schools, which is affiliated with Lynchburg-based hospital corporation Centra Health Inc., first opened on the grounds of Virginia Baptist Hospital in 1986, serving four children who were patients in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Unit; and

WHEREAS, Centra Rivermont Schools was one of the first specialized education programs in Virginia to merge therapeutic behavioral health practices with special education; and

WHEREAS, Centra Rivermont Schools serves children with severe emotional, behavioral, learning, and developmental disabilities, including autism, by offering a special education program for students ages 5 - 22, who have difficulty learning in a traditional school setting; and

WHEREAS, Centra Rivermont Schools has 12 campuses throughout the Commonwealth, serving 630 children with disabilities who have been referred by over 60 public school divisions; each school is licensed by the Virginia Department of Education and accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities; and

WHEREAS, Centra Rivermont Schools strives to help children overcome previous school failures by cultivating each individual's inner strength, intelligence, and talents so that students learn to manage their behaviors and can return to their home schools, graduate, and become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, Centra Rivermont Schools has achieved continued growth over its 30-year history and gained a reputation around the state for honesty, integrity, hard work, a spirit of collaboration, and a commitment to its students and families; and

WHEREAS, because of the dedication and work of the staff and administrators at Centra Rivermont Schools, hundreds of once struggling special needs children have prospered in a traditional school setting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Centra Rivermont Schools on 30 years of service as Virginia's largest private, nonprofit system of schools serving school-age children with disabilities; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Lloyd G. Tannenbaum, director of Centra Rivermont Schools, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's dedication to putting children with special needs on a path to leading productive lives.

INTRODUCED

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