

## 2019 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 355

*Commending the Thomas Jefferson Middle School counseling department.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 20, 2019

WHEREAS, in 2019, the counseling department at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Arlington was distinguished by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) as a Recognized ASCA Model Program; and

WHEREAS, the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) distinction is awarded to schools that deliver an exemplary educational environment and align with criteria established in the ASCA National Model, a framework for comprehensive, data-driven school counseling programs; since the program's inception, over 650 schools have received the RAMP distinction for implementing data in ways that encourage school counselors to strive for excellence and students to achieve success; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Thomas Jefferson Middle School counseling department's receiving high marks on their RAMP application, the school was one of only three to be recognized in 2019 as a School of Distinction by the ASCA; and

WHEREAS, the many exceptional counselors at Thomas Jefferson Middle School include the director of counseling, Susan Holland; Amelia Black, Erin Pennington, Ana Rodriguez, and Tiffini Woody-Pope, who all joined the department in 2014; and Susan Russo, who joined the team in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson Middle School is an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program that currently has 1,144 students who speak 30 different languages and hail from 50 different countries; approximately 40 percent of the student body receives free or reduced lunch, 20 percent of the student body receives special education services, and 22 percent of the student body receives direct instruction as English Language Learners; the effective use of data enables the Thomas Jefferson Middle School counseling department to better accommodate and respond to this large and diverse student body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Thomas Jefferson Middle School counseling department hereby be commended for receiving the Recognized ASCA Model Program distinction; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Susan Holland, director of counseling at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for her department's achievements and efforts to ensure the success of students in Arlington County and the Commonwealth.

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