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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 184

Offered February 16, 2012

Commending Virginia Advanced Study Strategies, Inc.

Patron—Miller, J.C.

WHEREAS, Virginia Advanced Study Strategies, Inc., works with partner high schools in the Commonwealth to establish an advanced academic curriculum in math, science, and English, as part of a national initiative focusing on science, technology, engineering, and math competency; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Advanced Study Strategies, Inc. (VASS), which is based in South Boston, Virginia, has worked with 65 high schools since 2007, encouraging each school to offer a greater number of advanced placement (AP) courses; and

WHEREAS, an important component of the VASS program is teacher preparation, recognizing that well-qualified teachers are crucial to students' academic success; the program trains and supports teachers, equips teaching labs, and offers weekend preparatory sessions and teacher incentives; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Advanced Study Strategies, Inc., focuses on math, science, and English instruction; the program offers tutoring and support for students, working to ensure that those who take AP classes are prepared and can succeed in high school, college, and in a career; and

WHEREAS, students in the VASS program are motivated to successfully complete AP classes; they can earn college credit, and the data shows that the participants do better in college, need fewer remedial courses, and are more likely to earn degrees in math or science; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Advanced Study Strategies, Inc., has a proven approach that is effective in rural, suburban, and urban schools, and the 65 schools that work with VASS have reported a 150 percent increase in the number of students taking AP classes; the percentage increase for minority students is even higher; and

WHEREAS, in its work with schools, VASS prepares the Commonwealth's students to succeed in the global economy, which will help Virginia to stay competitive in the international marketplace; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Virginia Advanced Study Strategies, Inc., for its work with high schools in the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Virginia Advanced Study Strategies, Inc., as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its work to help ensure that Virginia's high school graduates are well-prepared for the careers that will be in demand in the twenty-first century.

INTRODUCED

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