**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. WILLA ELAINE NORTON OF BERKELEY COUNTY FOR HER OUTSTANDING WORK AS AN EDUCATOR AND TO CONGRATULATE HER ON BEING NAMED 2012-2013 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR FOR BERKELEY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Dr. Willa Elaine Norton of Berkeley County, principal of St. Stephen Elementary School, has been named 2012-2013 Elementary School Principal of the Year for Berkeley County School District; and

Whereas, in preparation for her career, Elaine Norton completed primary and secondary schooling in her hometown of St. Stephen and pursued higher education at South Carolina State University, where she ultimately earned her doctorate; and

Whereas, experienced as a teacher, facilitator, and administrator, Dr. Norton for the past nine years has served as principal of St. Stephen Elementary. She is known for her compassion and love for children, especially the four hundred fifty students she nurtures at St. Stephen. Beyond educational considerations, her care for her charges encompasses financial needs, clothing, food, counseling, housing, and more; and

Whereas, Dr. Norton serves St. Stephen Elementary with high expectations. Under her leadership, the school has met AYP for seven consecutive years and is a Red Carpet School, NASA Explorer School, and “A” Plus Leadership School. In addition, this hard-working principal has written and won several grants to fund after‑school enrichment programs for her students; and

Whereas, a woman of faith, Elaine Norton finds spiritual strength as a member of Refugee Temple Church. Further strength comes from the support of her parents, Willie and Queen Gamble; her husband, Tony; her children, Shaun, Quan, and Corey; and her delightful grandchildren, Malik, Shabria, Morgan, and Aiden; and

Whereas, well aware of how deserving she is of this coveted award, the students of St. Stephen Elementary School and their parents, as well as her colleagues, friends, and family members, congratulate Dr. Norton on this latest testimony to her dedicated service and spirit of excellence in the field of education; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in adding its tribute to the many encomiums received by this praiseworthy educator, and the members with one voice extend best wishes to Dr. Norton for many more productive years of service to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. Willa Elaine Norton of Berkeley County for her outstanding work as an educator and congratulate her on being named 2012-2013 Elementary School Principal of the Year for Berkeley County School District.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Elaine Norton.

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