**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND DEBBIE POOLE, PRINCIPAL OF PELION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE, FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN EDUCATOR AND TO CONGRATULATE HER UPON BEING NAMED 2021 JOSEPH M. BEDENBAUGH ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Mrs. Debbie Poole, principal of Pelion Elementary School, has been named 2021 Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year; and

Whereas, given annually by the Lexington One Educational Foundation, the Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year award honors an administrator who exhibits outstanding leadership skills and compassion toward students, who works well with staff, students, and parents, and who considers the educational development of students a primary goal; and

Whereas, a native of Batesburg‑Leesville, Mrs. Poole graduated from the University of South Carolina‑Aiken in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts in early childhood education. Beginning her career in education at Ridge Spring‑Monetta Elementary School, she taught kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. She led in‑service training, was a model classroom teacher, grade level chair, a South Carolina Readiness Assessment Trainer for Aiken County, and was a member of the University of South Carolina‑Aiken Educational Advisory Board. In 1992, she completed her first masters degree in early childhood education at the University of South Carolina, and in 2001, she received her National Board Certification in the area of early childhood generalist; and

Whereas, in 2002, Mrs. Poole joined Lexington School District One, where she taught first grade and third grade at Oak Grove Elementary School. She acted as literacy liaison for the district, led professional development sessions in reading, writing, and science, and during the 2005‑2006 school year, she was named Teacher of the Year for Oak Grove Elementary and a finalist for the Lexington County School District One Teacher of the Year; and

Whereas, having earned her second masters degree in educational leadership from the University of South Carolina in 2008, Mrs. Poole was promoted to assistant principal for the newly opened New Providence Elementary School. With a strong history of excellence in handling her responsibilities and developing long lasting relationships with her colleagues, students, and their parents, in 2015 she was named the school principal; and

Whereas, in 2018, Mrs. Poole transitioned to her current position as principal of Pelion Elementary School. With a truly compassionate heart, she has shown her capability and efficiency in caring for students and their families and has worked tirelessly to implement new programs, respond to rising needs, and make a difference within the Pelion Elementary School community. Despite recent hardships, Mrs. Poole has remained indefatigable in her efforts, and deeply committed to her students, her family, her friends, and her community; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives congratulates Mrs. Poole on her selection as 2021 Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year, and the members are deeply grateful for her outstanding contributions to the welfare of South Carolina’s children, who are our future. 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 commend Debbie Poole, principal of Pelion Elementary School in Lexington School District One, for her many years of dedicated service as an educator and congratulate her upon being named 2021 Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Debbie Poole.

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