

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate Mercy Academy as the first all-girls school in the nation and only school in the Commonwealth to establish a nationally certified Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program.

WHEREAS, since its 1885 founding in Louisville, Mercy Academy has existed to serve and provide young women with a quality Catholic education, an academic curriculum designed for all learners to excel, an empowerment to become responsible leaders in service to others, opportunities to build a sense of community with diverse peers, and real-life experiences that prepare them for life and work in an age of rapid change; and

WHEREAS, at Mercy Academy, the STEM program is connected with an innovative Digital Arts program to create an elite Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) program that provides an unmatched educational experience while opening doors to professional fields in high demand; and

WHEREAS, Mercy Academy is one of only 23 other schools in the nation and the only school in the Commonwealth to be certified in STEM by AdvancED, the national STEM accreditation agency; and

WHEREAS, students at Mercy Academy are given unparalleled, real-life experience opportunities such as building robots to test solutions to practical issues, exploring STEM careers through job shadowing, learning to code in computer programming, and conducting forensic investigations and simulated infectious disease testing using DNA equipment; and

WHEREAS, a formal STEM certification exhibits Mercy Academy's commitment to addressing workforce needs by preparing young women with the relevant skills and experiences to succeed while demonstrating a dedication to higher levels of rigorous student achievement in STEM areas; and

WHEREAS, this recognition is the result of countless hours of hard work by the students, teachers, and administrators of the Mercy Academy community over the last

year;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

→Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor and celebrate Mercy Academy for its innovative and vigorous role in providing a quality STEM education to young women of the Commonwealth who set an example for Kentucky, the nation, and the world as they reach higher for educational excellence.

→Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Principal Amy Sample Elstone, Mercy Academy, 8501 Fegenbush Lane, Louisville, Kentucky 40228.