RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF LAUREL SHUGART
FORT PAYNE HIGH SCHOOL, FORT PAYNE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM,
AS A 2021 NATIONAL CENTER FOR WOMEN AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY (NCWIT) ASPIRATIONS,
HONORABLE MENTION RECIPIENT

WHEREAS, now that the highly versatile and sought-after computer science skillset
is essential in today’s information economy, initiatives that promote computer science
awareness and lead to increased college graduates with computing-related degrees are
more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Women and Information Technology Aspirations
for Computing Initiative, chartered in 2004 by the National Science Foundation, provides
girls and young women with ongoing engagement, visibility, and encouragement for their
computing- related interests and achievements in high school through college and into the
workforce; and

WHEREAS, inspiring more girls and young women to choose careers in STEM is not
about parity; but it is about a compelling issue of innovation, competitiveness, and
workforce sustainability; including the ability to design technology that is as broad and
creative as the people it serves; and

WHEREAS, more than 4,228 applicants were submitted for the 2021 national
Aspirations in Computing (AiC) awards program resulting in less than ten percent (10%) of
applicants receiving recognition in the entire nation; and

WHEREAS, through the northern and southern regional affiliates, Alabama is
honored to recognize one national winner and six 2021 NCWIT honorable mentions from
among a number of young women who display aptitude and interest in computer science;
and

WHEREAS, Laurel Shugart, Fort Payne High School, Fort Payne City School
System, has demonstrated excellence in the computer science and information technology
field in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Laurel Shugart was chosen as a 2021 National Honorable Mention to
receive the award for displaying a high aptitude and aspirations in technology and
computing, as demonstrated by computing experience, computing-related activities,
leadership experience, tenacity in the face of barriers to access, and plans for
postsecondary education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of
Education does hereby commend and congratulate Laurel Shugart upon the honor of being
selected as one of Alabama’s outstanding young women who display excellence in
computer science.

Done this 13th day of May 2021