

**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