

## **RESOLUTION COMMENDING CHARLES R. DREW MIDDLE SCHOOL, TALLADEGA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, AS 2022 AWARDEE FOR ALABAMA GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes the importance of saving energy, reducing costs, creating environmentally sustainable learning spaces, protecting health, and fostering wellness for Alabama students and educators; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles R. Drew Middle School, located in the Talladega County School System, is awarded the Alabama Green Ribbon School Award by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for its commitment to improving its overall environmental impact, energy efficiency, and environmental education efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles R. Drew Middle School is focused on increasing our state's environmental stewardship and sustainability by reducing all negative ecological impact through facility management, waste reduction, and energy conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles R. Drew Middle School also is positively impacting the Talladega County community with research-based environmental education and awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles R. Drew Middle School is utilizing Project-Based Learning classroom lessons to further build sustainable green living practices throughout the local community; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles R. Drew Middle School is committed to the health and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff through extensive recycling initiatives that integrate effective facilities management practices; and

**WHEREAS**, through its innovative *Recycling in Drew* (RID) schoolwide initiative, more than 950 pounds of used paper and plastic were collected and recycled throughout the academic school year; and

**WHEREAS**, for this special initiative students also created a successful community awareness campaign, which utilized communication flyers, Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos, and informative community displays to share their important messages about the positive impact of eco-friendly and green living; and

**WHEREAS**, this program has also received national recognition – Charles R. Drew Middle School students recently competed against more than 1,500 students from across the country at the national *NatGeo Competition* and placed second overall for their innovative approach to recycling and community outreach; and

**WHEREAS**, the students and faculty at Charles R. Drew Middle School truly take their environmental commitment seriously and continue to integrate additional positive recycling-minded measures into their school organizations, daily practices, and classroom curriculum; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 100 percent of Charles R. Drew Middle School's landscaping is water-efficient, less than 15 percent of its campus is covered with impermeable surfaces, 75 percent of campus driveways are porous surfaces, and approximately 85 percent of the schools' total paper is chlorine-free and post-consumer material certified with fibers produced from forests that are responsibly managed; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles R. Drew Middle School is fully committed to environmental education and also utilizes STEAM curriculum offerings to allow students to explore their career options and talents in areas that promote environmental research, public service, and volunteer opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles R. Drew Middle School parents and faculty have a strong partnership in creating successful school service programs, which broaden community awareness, student leadership, and environmental stewardship:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Charles R. Drew Middle School located in the Talladega County School System for its commitment to environmental education and does hereby express its sincere congratulations.

Done this 12th day of May 2022