

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE 2023-2024 ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR MR. JEFFREY L. NORRIS, OAK MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL, SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the teaching profession is one of the most important careers within our nation; and

WHEREAS, rising school and student enrollment continues to increase the need for highly professional kindergarten, elementary, and high school educators throughout our nation; and

WHEREAS, accomplished Alabama educator, Mr. Jeffrey L. Norris is an excellent example of educational leadership, mentorship, and classroom innovation; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Jeffrey L. Norris strives to live out John Maxwell's philosophy, a great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Jeffrey L. Norris began his career in a variety of distinct positions with the Shelby County School System, including as a third and fifth-grade educator; and

WHEREAS, he views professional development as a vital and significant resource, which ultimately can be one of the most rewarding experiences in an educator's career; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Jeffrey L. Norris also has been a highly effective school administrator, gifted education teacher, administrative assistant, and school principal; and

WHEREAS, educators are an essential part of our nation's continued prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Jeffrey L. Norris has attained National Board Certification and degrees in both Educational and Teacher Leadership; and

WHEREAS, his focus remains on developing more meaningful and authentic classroom approaches to help every student reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 pandemic prompted many to consider life changes, Alabama Teacher of the Year Jeffrey L. Norris courageously decided to return to the classroom where he taught Advanced English Language Arts and sixth grade mathematics; and

WHEREAS, he believes all members of the education community have a responsibility to lead dynamic and engaging classroom lessons; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Jeffrey L. Norris' overall instructional methods center around three key concepts – environment, engagement, and empowerment; and

WHEREAS, when he plans his wonderful classroom lessons, he always focuses on keeping student engagement at the forefront and often goes to great lengths to incorporate best practice classroom activities to maintain the full attention of every student in his classroom; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Jeffrey L. Norris has gained a high-level of respect within his community and among his colleagues and parents; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Jeffrey L. Norris encourages his students to understand academic excellence truly requires personal perseverance; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Teacher of the Year Jeffrey L. Norris is a great professional example for all educators statewide:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education congratulates Mr. Jeffrey L. Norris for being selected the 2023-2024 Alabama Teacher of the Year and Elementary Teacher of the Year and expresses gratitude for his dedication to academic excellence.

Done this 11th day of May 2023