



HR0712

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Dr. Sheila  
4 Harrison-Williams on being a co-recipient of the National  
5 Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) Joseph E. Hill  
6 "Superintendent of the Year" Award; and

7           WHEREAS, Dr. Sheila Harrison-Williams was born in  
8 Clarksdale, Mississippi and raised on the Westside of Chicago;  
9 she is currently Superintendent of Hazel Crest School District  
10 in Hazel Crest; and

11           WHEREAS, She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from  
12 Northeastern Illinois University, majoring in Special  
13 Education and Elementary Education; she earned a Master of Arts  
14 degree from Northeastern in Educational Administration; she  
15 earned a Degree of Doctor of Education in Educational  
16 Leadership from Northern Illinois University; she completed  
17 post-graduate work at Northeastern and Northern Illinois  
18 Universities, achieving an Early Childhood Education  
19 Certificate from Northeastern and Chief School Business  
20 Official Certification from Northern; and

21           WHEREAS, Dr. Harrison-Williams serves on the Executive  
22 Committee of the Superintendents Commission for the Study of

1 Demographics and Diversity, and collaborates with school  
2 district leaders to provide professional development for  
3 teachers and administrators designed to transform the paradigm  
4 of educating children; in her role as Past-President of the  
5 Commission, she collaborates with other school district  
6 leaders to share financial resources and expertise; this  
7 collaboration provides for exchange of proven pedagogical  
8 strategies designed to raise the achievement of  
9 underprivileged students; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Harrison-Williams serves as an At-Large  
11 Governing Board Member of the Illinois Association of School  
12 Administrators, representing minority superintendents of the  
13 State of Illinois; she sits on a number of boards that  
14 influence public policy, such as the South Cooperative  
15 Organization for Public Education (SCOPE); and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Harrison-Williams is a life member of the  
17 National Alliance of Black School Educators and currently  
18 serves as the Secretary for the Superintendents Commission; in  
19 addition, along with her partner, Dr. Constance Collins, she  
20 has served as one of the conveners of the annual NABSE  
21 "Aspiring Superintendents" one-day workshop for the past 8  
22 years; this presentation addresses the barriers women and  
23 minorities face in seeking the superintendency, identifies  
24 strategies to overcome the barriers, with a special emphasis on

1 the behaviors necessary to maintain the position of  
2 Superintendent; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Harrison-Williams has received a number of  
4 awards and recognition as an educational leader, the most  
5 recent being the co-recipient of the NABSE Joseph E. Hill  
6 "Superintendent of the Year" Award; other awards include the  
7 2010 Top Ladies of Distinction "Crown Jewel" Award, the  
8 Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations  
9 Association 2010 "Public Ambassador of the Year" Award, and the  
10 2009 NABSE "Phenomenal Women" Award; and

11 WHEREAS, She received the NABSE Joseph E. Hill  
12 "Superintendent of the Year" Award on January 26, 2012;  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
15 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16 we congratulate Dr. Sheila Harrison-Williams on her award and  
17 wish her the best in her continuing career; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to Dr. Sheila Harrison-Williams as a symbol of our  
20 respect and esteem.