

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 743

By Hemmer

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Tina M. Atkinson on being named the National Art Education Association Southeastern Regional Elementary Art Educator of the Year and NAEA National Elementary Art Educator of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest-quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tina M. Atkinson is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Atkinson was recently named the National Art Education Association's (NAEA) Southeastern Regional Elementary Art Educator of the Year as well as the NAEA National Elementary Art Educator of the Year, most befitting honors that recognize the positive influence she has on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, holding degrees in art education, curriculum and instruction, and leadership and professional practice, Dr. Tina Atkinson began teaching elementary visual arts in the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) system in 1998 and has since developed an innovative and highly successful visual art program at Percy Priest Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tina Atkinson has worked in MNPS as a facilitator and content lead teacher for the TN Student Growth Portfolio Assessment and was selected to serve three years as a State Assessor for the Student Growth Portfolio; she has facilitated various workshops on professional development across the district, state, and nation and taught art education courses as an adjunct professor at Belmont University and as a guest educator at Vanderbilt University; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and Belmont University; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated professional, Dr. Atkinson served one term as her school representative for the Metropolitan Nashville Education Association, two terms on the Tennessee Art Education Association board as the elementary division representative, and one term as Middle Tennessee Regional Chair; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Atkinson previously served as NAEA Southeastern Regional Elementary Division Representative, serving elementary art educators across the region, and she is currently serving her second term as NAEA Elementary Research Commissioner, a role in which she has had the opportunity to collaborate with art educators across the country; she also serves as part of an auxiliary panel of experts assisting the NAEA Teacher Retention and Recruitment Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tina Atkinson helped launch "Research is Elementary," a collaboration between the NAEA's Research Commission and Elementary Division designed to awaken the inner researchers in all elementary art educators; in her self-appointed role as "research translator" for her fellow art educators, she published an article about student questioning in *School Arts Magazine* and is anticipating the release date for a second article about research in instructional design; and

WHEREAS, a devoted community advocate, Dr. Atkinson has served as a reviewer of community programming for the Frist Art Museum, a juror for the East Tennessee Student Art Show at the Knoxville Museum of Art and the Dogwood Arts Student Show, and a member of the teacher advisory panel for the Cheekwood Estate and Garden and the Nashville Parthenon Museum; she has also served as a Troop Leader and adult volunteer for the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee and as a volunteer for Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during the pandemic, Dr. Atkinson effectively engaged families with her virtual art classes and created over 2,000 take-home bags with supplies for weaving, clay

sculpting, drawing, painting, and paper making, and she has created videos for her classes as well as for classroom teachers to use to increase student engagement; and

WHEREAS, this award-winning art educator was recognized as the inaugural awardee for the Parthenon Museum in Nashville's Educator of the Year Award (2005) for developing educational resources related to abstract expressionism, and she has been honored by her peers as the Tennessee Art Education Association's (TAEA) Middle Region Art Educator of the Year in 2009, TAEA Elementary Division Art Educator of the Year in 2012, and the Tennessee State Art Educator of the Year in 2018; Dr. Atkinson was also recognized for instructional excellence by her district as a Blue Ribbon Teacher, Class of 2019; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tina Atkinson has written for local, state, and national publications, including the *Volunteer Canvas*, Americans for the Arts national blog, Davis Publication's *School Arts Magazine*, and the first print edition of *Number*, an independent arts journal; she has presented and facilitated teacher workshops at local universities and at the district, regional, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, her personal artwork has been exhibited in several art shows around Nashville, including the TAEA Connections Show showcased during the summer Tennessee Arts Academy, the Complementary Voices 2018 adjunct faculty exhibit at Belmont University, and the 2020/2021 Art of Healing Exposition sponsored by the World Health Organization and hosted by the Vanderbilt Curb Center; Dr. Atkinson's artwork is also on display at the Clay Lady Gallery; and

WHEREAS, an extremely talented and compassionate educator, Dr. Atkinson works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tina Atkinson serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Atkinson truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Tina M. Atkinson on her selection as the National Art Education Association's Southeastern Regional Elementary Art Educator of the Year and the NAEA National Elementary Art Educator of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.