

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY SENATORS MIGUEZ AND ALLAIN

A RESOLUTION

To commend Christine Bayard for winning the Milken Educator Award, which is considered to be the "Oscars of Teaching".

WHEREAS, Christine Bayard, a sixth-grade math teacher at Johnston-Hopkins Elementary School in New Iberia, Louisiana, has earned a national award for her approach to teaching; and

WHEREAS, upon winning the national award Ms. Bayard also wins a \$25,000 unrestricted cash prize allowing her to spend the funds as she wishes; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bayard is an alumnus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in child and family studies in 2009 and completed a post-baccalaureate certification for middle school math education in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bayard founded the Johnston-Hopkins (JHOP) Elementary School's math club, works with the Junior Beta Club, serves on JHOP's instructional leadership team as a mentor teacher in partnership with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) and assists with JHOP's end of the year "Fun Day"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bayard has contributed her skill set on both state and national levels, serving as a certified Louisiana mentor teacher and was featured at the 2023 national NIET conference with her master teacher on effective coaching strategies; and

WHEREAS, state Superintendent of Education, Dr. Cade Brumley, states that "Ms. Bayard's classroom is an innovative space where math transcends textbooks and students engage in real world lessons. Her commitment to a student-centered approach is seen through academic outcomes and the difference she has made throughout her school."; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bayard's sixth-grade students explore math concepts far beyond the pages of a textbook by engaging in units to see how math plays a pivotal role in daily life, such as when she dons a full space suit for class and transforms lessons on decimals and rate reasoning into experiences that are truly "out of this world" by having students calculate how much food, water, and oxygen is needed to live on Mars for two years, how long a Mars text

message would take to send to Earth, and how many days it would take to ride a horse to the moon; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bayard's classroom also becomes a construction site, where students use cubes to build habitats after calculating the cost, revenue, and profit or loss for their projects; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bayard's classroom has stepped foot into the racing world where students explored fractions by virtually building race cars, working through weight's effect on speed and velocity; and

WHEREAS, games are no stranger to her students who are eager to review what they have learned by competing in "mathketball" teams as a result of them learning consistent value-added achievement growth due to Ms. Bayard's "astronomical" instructional and professional leadership; and

WHEREAS, Milken Educator Awards Founder Lowell Milken states: "We thank Christine for selecting teaching for her career and look forward to the contributions she will bring to the national Milken Educator Network", which is a national group of exceptional professionals working to "celebrate, elevate, and activate" the K-12 profession; and

WHEREAS, The Milken Educator Award honored up to seventy-five recipients across the country in 2023-2024 and all recipients will attend an all-expenses paid Milken Educator Awards Forum in Los Angeles in June where they will network with new colleagues as well as veteran Milken Educators as they will develop powerful mentorship opportunities for expanded leadership roles on the state, national, and international levels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Christine Bayard, a sixth-grade math teacher at Johnston-Hopkins Elementary School in New Iberia, for winning the national Milken Educator Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Christine Bayard.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE