

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1748

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Dr. Brenda S. Dietrich for her more than 40 years of dedicated service in education upon her retirement from Auburn-Washburn school district in 2015.

WHEREAS, Auburn-Washburn Superintendent Dr. Brenda S. Dietrich is to retire at the end of the 2014-2015 school year, after more than 40 years of dedicated service in education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dietrich has served the Auburn-Washburn school district for 14 years. One of her first tasks as superintendent was to implement Shawnee County's first district-wide full-day kindergarten program. The program was made possible when patrons approved classroom expansion in a 2000 bond election; and

WHEREAS, The Auburn-Washburn school district has seen steady growth from 5,072 students in 2001 to an anticipated enrollment of around 6,100 this upcoming school year. Dr. Dietrich oversees a \$45 million operating budget with approximately 1,000 employees. Auburn-Washburn is the second largest district in Shawnee County and the 15th largest in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, During Dr. Dietrich's tenure in the Auburn-Washburn school district, test scores have risen steadily despite fluctuating changes in state aid. The district met such challenges prudently and continued to make improvements in all aspects of educational and extra-curricular opportunities for students; and

WHEREAS, Programs that have been added since Dr. Dietrich took her position as superintendent of Auburn-Washburn back in 2001 include full-day kindergarten, expansion of elementary art, Mandarin Chinese, international baccalaureate diploma program, Air Force JROTC program, AB/BC calculus, AP chemistry, and Tallgrass Student Learning Center, all of which serve to keep Auburn-Washburn students achieving at the highest levels; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Dr. Dietrich led the district through a successful \$67.95 million bond campaign and redistricting of four elementary school boundaries. The bond allowed for the construction of Farley Elementary School, Topeka's first new school in 20 years. In addition, Washburn Rural Middle School and Washburn Rural High School received substantial expansion and remodeling. All elementary schools were expanded and remodeled as well, with many safety, security and technology improvements; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dietrich graduated from McPherson High School and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Kansas State University in 1975. She also has an M.A. and Ph.D. in Education Administration from the University of Missouri. Dr. Dietrich taught for nine years before becoming an administrator and is now in her 40th year in education. Prior to leading Auburn-Washburn, she was Superintendent of Schools for five years in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District in Wilbraham, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dietrich was named the 2007 Kansas Superintendent of the Year by the Kansas School Superintendents Association and was one of four finalists for National Superintendent of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dietrich is actively engaged in professional activities throughout the community and state. She currently serves on the Board of Leadership Kansas, Jayhawk Council of Boy Scouts, Junior Achievement, Kansas Advisory Board for Juvenile Justice, United School Administrators, American Association of School Administrators Governing Board and Kansas School Superintendent's Association. Dr. Dietrich also served on the boards of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Greater Topeka, Family Service and Guidance Center and the Governor's P-20 Council; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Dr. Dietrich replaced retiring Superintendent Howard Shuler, who served in that position for 19 years. There have been only two superintendents at Auburn-Washburn in the past 33 years, which is a testament to the stability of the district and the supportive community. Dr. Dietrich will serve as Superintendent of Auburn-Washburn until August 1, 2015: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend Dr. Brenda S. Dietrich on her honorable career in education and service to the Auburn-Washburn school district. Dr. Dietrich's accomplishments and legacy will forever be remembered by the State of Kansas and Auburn-Washburn school district; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Schmidt.

Senate Resolution No. 1748 was sponsored by Senators Schmidt, Hensley and Kelly.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.