

Senate Resolution 566

By: Senator Jackson of the 50th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and honoring the students, faculty, and staff of Towns County Middle School
2 for state and national achievements; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Towns County Middle School implemented the "Expanding the Classroom:
4 TCMS Laptop Computer Project" whereby every student and teacher has a laptop computer,
5 effectively extending the school day into evenings and weekends and providing unlimited
6 access to the Internet and other educational resources; and

7 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Stephen H. Smith, principal, the e-learning program was
8 begun in 1998 and funded primarily by the Appalachian Regional Commission along with
9 significant local donations; and

10 WHEREAS, the program has inspired students and their parents who volunteer at the school
11 more than ever; and

12 WHEREAS, the results of the program have been phenomenally successful, including
13 increased school attendance, increased punctuality, increased teacher attendance, increased
14 student academic achievement, decreased student behavior problems, and increased the
15 number of adults seeking their general educational development diplomas; and

16 WHEREAS, the school has garnered state and national recognition, including being
17 recognized by *Time Magazine* as one of the top two middle schools in America; earning the
18 Effective Program Award (1996, 1998, 1999, and 2000) by the Georgia Association of
19 Middle School Principals; and being designated as one of the top 100 middle schools in the
20 United States by the National Association of Secondary School Principals; and

21 WHEREAS, the beneficial effects accruing to students, parents, and the community reflect
22 the rewards of creative leadership and a unique investment in the lives of this county's
23 citizens who are "Wired for the Future."

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate that the members of this body
2 commend Principal Stephen Smith and the faculty and students of Towns County Middle
3 School for their commitment to education and for their innovative approach to learning and
4 congratulate them on their outstanding success.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
6 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Towns County Middle School.