

Senate Resolution 405

By: Senator Dugan of the 30th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Lisa McDonald as 2015 Charter School Leader of the Year; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Lisa McDonald was named the 2015 Charter School Leader of the Year by the
4 Georgia Charter Schools Association, which also selected Brighten Academy Charter School
5 as 2014 Georgia Charter School of the Year; and

6 WHEREAS, Brighten Academy Charter School is the first nonprofit charter school in the
7 State of Georgia to be founded by teachers; it was founded nine years ago in 2006, serves
8 grades K-8, and moved into a brand new facility on January 21, 2015; and

9 WHEREAS, it was selected to become a member school of Expeditionary Learning, which
10 is a partnership with the Harvard School of Education whose model teaches children to learn
11 by doing and whose instructional philosophies and practices align with Brighten Academy's
12 charter; and

13 WHEREAS, advanced courses are offered at both the elementary and middle school level,
14 and special needs learning is available for all children if applicable; and

15 WHEREAS, its focus on the whole child also focuses on the seven C's of craftsmanship,
16 creativity, community, critical thinking, commitment, culture, and curiosity; and students are
17 expected to model these characteristics as well as demonstrate extracurricular projects; and

18 WHEREAS, Brighten Academy is a parent driven charter school, requiring 20 parent
19 volunteer hours per year and enrollment with the new facility, which allowed for expansion,
20 increased from 470 to 620 students; and

21 WHEREAS, Executive Director Lisa McDonald worked as an educator for the Douglas
22 County School System as a classroom and gifted resource teacher before founding and
23 leading Brighten Academy in 2006; and

24 WHEREAS, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Program Service Learning and her Gifted
25 Education certification from Mercer University; she received her master's degree in
26 Curriculum and Instruction from the American College of Education; and

27 WHEREAS, she was selected to serve as a Charter School Leader and Mentor from the
28 Georgia Charter Schools Association in 2014 and is also a member of their advocacy and
29 legislative committee.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
31 GEORGIA that the members of this body recognize Lisa McDonald as 2015 Charter School
32 Leader of the Year and commend her contributions to education in the State of Georgia.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Lisa McDonald.