

14 OCT -9 PM 12:11

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

Resolution Acknowledging the 20th Anniversary of The Next Step Learning Center in West Oakland and Recognizing Their Tutoring and Mentoring Programs Which Have Strengthened Thousands of Oakland Families Under the Leadership of Sister Cynthia Canning and Sister Rosemary Delaney.

WHEREAS The Next Step Learning Center was founded in 1994 by the Sisters of the Holy Names, to provide tutoring and educational assistance to members of the Oakland community, as well as addressing the high school drop out rate; and

WHEREAS The Next Step Learning Center, located at 2222 Curtis Street in West Oakland, has been strengthening Oakland families and communities through intensive, personalized tutoring and mentoring in basic literacy, GED preparation, and transition to college and the workforce; and

WHEREAS the mission of the Next Step Learning Center is to strengthen Oakland families and communities through intensive, personalized tutoring and other programs for reading, writing, and computation needed for urban life in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS Next Step Learning Center believes in the resilience of the human spirit and in each person's ability to learn and change; and

WHEREAS Next Step Learning Center provides a supportive environment which assists students to develop their self-confidence, strengthen their self-esteem, assume greater personal responsibility, and more fully reach their potential; and

WHEREAS Next Step Learning Center has created a college-going culture that makes postsecondary education accessible to GED graduates; and

WHEREAS Next Step Learning Center supports each person by providing a caring environment, bridges to the business and civic community, and a strong support and follow-up system; and

WHEREAS over 5,000 Oakland residents have been served at The Next Step Learning Center with high participant satisfaction; and

WHEREAS over 80 former high school dropouts have completed at least one semester of college since the inception of Next Step's college program in 2008; and

WHEREAS over 700 former high school dropouts have achieved full GED certification, increased access to college and employment opportunities, and greater hope for the future; and

WHEREAS over 300 Oakland and East Bay residents and employees have contributed thousands of hours to serve as one-on-one tutors or by providing technical support; and

WHEREAS the effects of illiteracy are cyclical, passing from generation to generation unless there is effective intervention; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the City of honors The Next Steps Learning Center on their 20th Anniversary; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Oakland honors the leadership of Sister Cynthia Canning and Sister Rosemary Delaney in developing, leading, and sustaining The Next Step Learning Center with fervor, persistence, faith, and love for their students; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Oakland recognizes the many volunteers and staff of the Next Step Learning Center who work diligently to ensure that each client receives educational supports to improve their lives and reach their potential.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -
ABSENT -
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California