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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE MEMBERS AND COACH OF THE  
WHEELER SCHOOL TEAM ON THEIR 1ST PLACE VICTORY AT THE 42ND RHODE  
ISLAND ACADEMIC DECATHLON

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Chippendale,  
Paplauskas, Ackerman, Ajello, Fogarty, Fellela, and Shallcross Smith  
Date Introduced: May 22, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Academic Decathlon was co-founded by John Howell,  
2 publisher of the Warwick Beacon, in December of 1983, and is open to all public, private and  
3 parochial high schools in Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, This rigorous competition tests the brain power and overall knowledge and  
5 thinking skills of high school entrants from across the State in ten subject areas ranging from art  
6 to math, as well as economics, essay, interview, language and literature, music, science, social  
7 science, and speech; and

8 WHEREAS, The theme for the 42nd annual Rhode Island Academic Decathlon was “Our  
9 Changing Climate” and was held on March 2, 2025, at Bryant University, with seventeen Rhode  
10 Island high schools and 238 students competing. The Decathlon includes both a team competition  
11 component and awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals to distinguish individuals for their  
12 outstanding achievements; and

13 WHEREAS, The Wheeler School regained the #1 title for the first time since 2008, by  
14 scoring more than 34,000 points. Members of the winning team include: ChiChi Minami, Selina  
15 Kao, Philip Spradlin, Isabelle Crescenzi, Promise Egunjobi, Diya Kinikar, Thomas Hutchinson,  
16 and Krishn Mansharamani. The Wheeler team was superbly led by Coach Dayna Cueva Alegria;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Two Wheeler School team members won Gold medals, Philip Spradlin won  
19 Gold in both the Art and Social Science categories, and Promise Egunjobi won Gold in Math. In

1 addition, ChiChi Minami won Bronze in Art and Social Science, Philip Spradlin won Silver in  
2 Math, and Selina Kao won Bronze in Speech. The team had the honor of representing Rhode  
3 Island in the United States Academic Decathlon which was held May 1st - 3rd in Des Moines,  
4 Iowa; and

5 WHEREAS, It is essential and fitting to recognize our youth and to celebrate their  
6 accomplishments. The Wheeler School team members exemplify everything that young people  
7 can achieve, and they are truly deserving of our recognition and praise; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
9 congratulates the Wheeler School team and their coach on their victory at the 2025 Rhode Island  
10 Academic Decathlon. We moreover wish them much happiness and success in all their future  
11 endeavors; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dayna Cueva Alegria, Coach of the Decathlon  
14 Team for the Wheeler School.

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