

**RESOLUTION NO. 262**  
**INNOVATIVE CONCEPT ACADEMY CLASS OF 2019**

**WHEREAS**, the Innovative Concept Academy class of 2019 Promotion Ceremony will be held on May 30, 2019 at the MERS Goodwill located at 1727 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, the Innovative Concept Academy was established in 2009, and is the brainchild of Judge Jimmie M. Matthews who was then serving on the Twenty-Second Circuit Court bench and is now the Director of Public Safety of the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Edwards, having witnessed the painfully limited options for at-risk students who had been expelled from the St. Louis Public Schools, formed an alliance between the Twenty-Second Circuit Family Court – Juvenile Division, the St. Louis Public Schools, and MERS Goodwill based upon their shared interest in serving young people between the ages of ten and eighteen in the City of St. Louis in a manner that recognizes and responds to the risk factors faced by young people in our community and the negative impact on their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Edwards was confident that he would find a strong ally for this effort in MERS Goodwill, as MERS Goodwill had already demonstrated its willingness to assist young people on parole earn their GED and find jobs, and Judge Edwards enlisted the aid of forty-five community partners in this effort, including; the YMCA, state agencies, local universities, members of the legal and business communities, fraternities, philanthropists, charitable organizations and foundations with youth focused missions, and churches; and

**WHEREAS**, this group of community partners established a school to serve three groups of at-risk youth: St. Louis Public Schools students who have been suspended; MERS Goodwill young adults who are working toward their GED and seeking jobs; and Division of Youth Services young people who have been expelled under the Safe Schools Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Louis Public Schools, MERS Goodwill, and the Division of Youth Services entered into a collaborative partnership to develop and administer the creation of a one-stop service center for St. Louis youth with the goal of increasing the protective factors available to young people to eliminate the negative impact of at-risk behavior on the St. Louis community; and

**WHEREAS**, this class of 2019 is the fourth class of graduates to receive high school diplomas, and marks the fourth year of Innovative Concept Academy's and the partnership of St. Louis Public Schools', MERS Goodwill's, and the Division of Youth Services' success.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the accomplishments and congratulate the Innovative Concept Academy's class of 2019 and to wish them continued success, and we further direct the Clerk of the Board of Aldermen to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of this proceeding and to prepare a commemorative copy the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019 by: The Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19<sup>th</sup> Ward

Adopted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019 as attested by:

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Louis C. Galli  
Interim Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen