

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring 2024 Rural Teacher of  
the Year Jodie Elkins.

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**MESSMER**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring 2024 Rural  
2 Teacher of the Year Jodie Elkins.

3           *Whereas, Each year the Indiana Small and Rural Schools*  
4 *Association, with sponsorship from Indiana Farm Bureau,*  
5 *honors one Indiana educator with the Rural Teacher of the*  
6 *Year Award;*

7           *Whereas, The Indiana Rural Teacher of the Year Award is*  
8 *given to a current teacher who collaborates with the rural*  
9 *community to provide lifelong learning opportunities, leads in*  
10 *the educational community, and leaves a lasting impact on her*  
11 *students;*

12           *Whereas, Jodie Elkins is a graduate of Pike Central High*  
13 *School ("PCHS") in Petersburg, Indiana, who returned to her*  
14 *beloved high school to teach after earning education degrees*  
15 *from Hanover College and the University of Evansville and has*  
16 *remained a vital member of the school and local communities*  
17 *for over 40 years;*

18           *Whereas, In 2006, PCHS was selected as one of 45 schools*  
19 *in the country to be a field test site for Project Lead the Way's*  
20 *Biomedical Sciences program, with Ms. Elkins at the forefront;*

21           *Whereas, Under Ms. Elkins' leadership, the Biomedical*  
22 *Sciences program at PCHS has grown steadily, being*  
23 *recognized as a model program in 2012, garnering PCHS*  
24 *recognition as a Project Lead the Way Distinguished School,*  
25 *and including in its ranks as much as 40% of the PCHS student*



1 *body at a time, many of whom have gone on to careers as*  
2 *emergency medical technicians, certified nursing assistants,*  
3 *and physicians;*

4 *Whereas, Ms. Elkins leads in her community through her*  
5 *service on the City of Petersburg Planning Commission and*  
6 *Parks and Recreation Board, the steering committees for the*  
7 *Buffalo Trace Festival and Discover Downtown Petersburg, the*  
8 *Prides Creek Golf Course Board of Directors, the Dubois-Pike*  
9 *Federal Credit Union Supervisory Committee, and the Pike*  
10 *County Advisory Council to Memorial Hospital and Health*  
11 *Care Center in Jasper;*

12 *Whereas, With an estimated 90% of PCHS students*  
13 *expected to take at least one class with her, Ms. Elkins has left*  
14 *an indelible impact on her students, regularly going above and*  
15 *beyond what is required of any teacher and supporting her*  
16 *students wherever and whenever they need, whether at ball*  
17 *games, band performances, academic competitions, theater*  
18 *productions, religious confirmations, graduations, weddings,*  
19 *baby showers, or funerals;*

20 *Whereas, Her impact on her students is best summarized by*  
21 *one student who, after Ms. Elkins helped her through a difficult*  
22 *personal problem, tearfully remarked, "I just love her so much,*  
23 *and I don't know what any of us would do without her here";*  
24 *and*

25 *Whereas, In recognition of her many contributions to her*  
26 *students, school, and community, Ms. Elkins was named the*  
27 *2024 Indiana Rural Teacher of the Year and represented*  
28 *Indiana in the National Rural Teacher of the Year program:*  
29 *Therefore,*

30 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*  
31 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives*  
32 *concurring:*

33 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly honors  
34 2024 Rural Teacher of the Year Jodie Elkins and commends her



1 for her work in advancing the aims of rural education and  
2 positively impacting the lives of her students.

3 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed  
4 to transmit copies of this Resolution to Jodie Elkins, Pike  
5 Central High School, and Indiana Farm Bureau.

