

By: Castro

H.R. No. 1513

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, George McKnight of San Antonio has received the 2009  
2 Outstanding Educator Award from the Texas Caucus of Black School  
3 Board Members for his tireless efforts in behalf of the Northside  
4 Independent School District; and

5           WHEREAS, Retired from a distinguished career in the U.S. Air  
6 Force, Mr. McKnight earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from  
7 The University of Texas at San Antonio in 1995 and began his career  
8 in education in June of that year; he joined Northside ISD in 2000  
9 as the ninth grade success initiative director, and under his  
10 skillful direction, the district was able to reduce the ninth grade  
11 retention rate from 18 to 10 percent; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. McKnight subsequently became the Smaller  
13 Learning Community coordinator and the Secondary At-risk  
14 coordinator; he developed a Summer TAKS Blitz and a credit  
15 retrieval program for at-risk students that were both so successful  
16 that they were ultimately instituted in all Northside ISD high  
17 schools; and

18           WHEREAS, At the same time, Mr. McKnight began serving as  
19 district director of AVID (Advancement Via Individual  
20 Determination), a program designed to prepare students in the  
21 academic middle for four-year college eligibility; the AVID pilot  
22 program exceeded expectations, and AVID has since been implemented  
23 at every middle and high school in the district, reaching hundreds  
24 of students; renowned throughout the district for the energy and

1 vision he brings to AVID, Mr. McKnight was asked in 2008 to take on  
2 further responsibility with the leadership of Northside's Evening  
3 High School; in addition to these full-time posts, he annually  
4 spends more than half of his noncontract time organizing and  
5 conducting training at the five-day AVID Summer Institutes; and

6 WHEREAS, This esteemed professional also serves as an  
7 advisory board member of Stevens and Taft High Schools and as a  
8 supporter of the Stevens High School Hawaii Club; he has presented  
9 at several national mathematics education conferences and is a San  
10 Antonio Urban Systemic Initiative Peer Teacher; and

11 WHEREAS, Children are the Lone Star State's most precious  
12 resource, and a quality education is vital in order for our young  
13 people to become successful adults; George McKnight demonstrates  
14 the passion, determination, and enthusiasm that are the hallmarks  
15 of our best teachers and administrators, and he serves as an  
16 inspiration to students and colleagues alike; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
18 Legislature hereby congratulate George McKnight on his receipt of  
19 the 2009 Outstanding Educator Award from the Texas Caucus of Black  
20 School Board Members and extend to him sincere best wishes for  
21 continued success; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for Mr. McKnight as an expression of high regard by the  
24 Texas House of Representatives.