



HR0862

LRB104 21705 ECR 37303 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Dr. Sharon
4 Desmoulin-Kherat, a nationally awarded servant leader in
5 public education, on the occasion of her retirement at the
6 conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year after eleven
7 distinguished years as superintendent of Peoria Public Schools
8 District 150; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat, originally from Dominica
10 and St. Croix, has called Illinois home throughout her
11 professional life, receiving her bachelor's and master's
12 degrees from Bradley University and her doctorate from
13 Illinois State University, bringing to her work the
14 perspective of a global citizen and the rigor of an
15 Illinois-trained scholar; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat began her career in
17 education as a middle school teacher in Peoria in 1998, and she
18 has since served at every level of public education, including
19 as assistant principal of Roosevelt Magnet School, principal
20 of Whittier Primary School, a U.S. Department of Education
21 Blue Ribbon School, and principal of Manual High School; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat's service to Illinois

1 students has extended well beyond Peoria, including her tenure
2 as transformation officer for Springfield Public Schools
3 District 186 and associate superintendent in Danville before
4 returning to Peoria as superintendent of Peoria Public Schools
5 District 150 in 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout her 11 years as superintendent of
7 Peoria Public Schools District 150, Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat has
8 reimagined education to ignite student passion and to ensure
9 that every learner has access to a wide variety of
10 opportunities, guided by her strategic vision "Reimagining
11 Schools to Ignite Student Passion"; and

12 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat's leadership, Peoria
13 Public Schools District 150 has expanded career and technical
14 education, improved student attendance, eliminated a \$14
15 million structural deficit, eliminated teacher vacancies,
16 implemented a modified calendar, and launched the Wraparound
17 Center in 2018, bringing community agencies together under one
18 roof to support students, families, and adults in need; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat led Peoria Public Schools
20 District 150 to become one of only a few districts in the
21 nation approved as a federal J-1 Visa Sponsor, recruiting more
22 than 200 international teachers from 16 countries and
23 increasing staff diversity from 11% to 25%, strengthening both

1 classroom instruction and the cultural richness of the
2 district; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat forged a decade-long
4 partnership with Caterpillar Inc. that has expanded
5 opportunities for Peoria students, and she has driven
6 measurable gains in student outcomes, with graduation rates
7 rising from 65% to 81% and ninth-grade success improving from
8 74% to 86%; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat's exemplary leadership has
10 been recognized with numerous honors, including her selection
11 as the 2025 Illinois Superintendent of the Year, three
12 national awards, and her selection as a finalist for National
13 Superintendent of the Year; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat's enduring commitment to
15 innovation, partnership, and student-centered outcomes has
16 shaped the lives of countless students and families in Peoria,
17 Springfield, Danville, and throughout the State of Illinois,
18 and her legacy will continue to inspire educators and leaders
19 for generations to come; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we congratulate Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat on her retirement

1 as superintendent of Peoria Public Schools District 150, honor
2 her remarkable career in public education, and extend our
3 deepest gratitude for her decades of service to the children
4 of Illinois; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat as a symbol of our
7 esteem and respect.