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TRIBUTE TO DR. HEATH MORRISON

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Dr. Heath Morrison, who has been recognized as the 2012 American Association of School Administrators—AASA—National Superintendent of the Year. My home State of Nevada is proud and privileged to acknowledge such an extraordinary educator and leader.

Since 2009, Dr. Morrison has served as superintendent for the Washoe County School District where he has proven to be an innovator in education. During his tenure, the Washoe County School District has achieved higher test scores and has seen their graduation rate rise to 70 percent. Outside the classroom, Dr. Morrison continues to encourage and develop student performance by creating personal connections with the local community.

Engaging with Washoe County residents has allowed Dr. Morrison to foster relationships with parents, volunteers, and local businesses in order to create and enhance scholastic opportunities for students. I commend Dr. Morrison for his strong leadership and positive influence on Nevada's youth.

I admire and recognize the desire of our educators to uphold high education standards for our nation. Their guidance and encouragement provide students with the ability to become lifelong learners with a thirst for knowledge. Now more than ever, it is of paramount importance to prepare our children and grandchildren to compete in the 21st century.

Nevada is fortunate to have such great educational leadership serving the students across our great State. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Morrison and celebrating the achievements of our Nation's teachers, administrators, and staff who help to guide our students to educational excellence.