

2009-K315

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Edison O. Jackson upon the occasion of his retirement as President of Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York, after many years of dedicated service in education

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders, whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Edison O. Jackson upon the occasion of his retirement as President of Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York, after many years of dedicated service in education; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 1, 1942, in Heathsville, Virginia, Dr. Edison O. Jackson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology, a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Howard University, and the Doctorate in Education from Rutgers University with academic emphasis on the philosophy, function, role and administration of urban educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, After serving for four years as a Senior Counselor/Instructor at Federal City College, in 1969, Dr. Edison O. Jackson assumed the position of Dean of Student Affairs at Essex County College in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Promoted to Vice President for Student Affairs, he was soon

appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of Essex County College in September of 1983; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, Dr. Edison O. Jackson accepted the challenge to lead Compton Community College in Compton, California, assuming the position of President/Superintendent, remaining there until his assumption of the presidency of Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York in 1989; and

WHEREAS, With a strong belief in the community, Dr. Edison O. Jackson holds membership in a number of civic, educational and community organizations; his service has included the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO); the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Millennium Leadership Institute; and the Commission on Educational Credit and Credentials of the American Council on Education; and

WHEREAS, A college president, educator, and community activist, Dr. Edison O. Jackson has written extensively on issues of concern to educators with particular concentration on minority students and the community, academic preparation and student performance; among the publications in which his work has been featured are: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Black Issues in Higher Education, July, 1989; ERIC Clearinghouse, Study of Attrition: Non-returning Students for 1975-76, with Robert L. McMillan, 1976; other publications include: Essex County College: Dynamics of Governance - The Decision-Making Process of a Public Education Institution, Dissertation, 1983; In Relentless Pursuit of Excellence, Medgar Evers College Press, 1992; Educating Our Students for A New World Order, Medgar Evers College Press, 1992; A Crucial Agenda: Making Colleges and Universities Work Better for Minority Students; Educating Our Students for a New World Order, Medgar Evers College

Press, 1992; and, Religion, Education, and the American Experience: Reflections on Religion and American Public Life, College President As Spiritual Leader, University of Alabama Press, 2002; and

WHEREAS, A motivational speaker and spiritual leader, Dr. Edison O. Jackson is an ordained minister who serves on the ministerial staff of Bridge Street African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Dr. Edison O. Jackson provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of young people in their educational journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Florence E. Jackson, and their two children, as well as one granddaughter, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edison O. Jackson has clearly had an enduring impact on the students of Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State for his impressive dedication to others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Edison O. Jackson upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of dedicated service in education, and for his significant contributions to education in New York State; and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Edison O. Jackson, Prospect Heights, Brooklyn.