

2009-J952

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Vassar College upon the occasion of its designation by the Mediation Center of Dutchess County as the recipient of its Community Empowerment Award at its Silver Anniversary Celebration on April 2, 2009

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals who work to improve the well-being of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Vassar College upon the occasion of its designation by the Mediation Center of Dutchess County as the recipient of its Community Empowerment Award at its Silver Anniversary Celebration, to be held at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie, New York, on Thursday, April 2, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1983, the Mediation Center of Dutchess County provides and promotes conflict prevention, management, and resolution services to benefit more than 2,000 individuals, families, schools, businesses, and organizations each year; and

WHEREAS, The Mediation Center is a non-profit agency, offering its services under the auspices of the New York State Unified Court System's Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution and Court Improvement (ADRCI) Programs; and

WHEREAS, The Mediation Center of Dutchess County's Silver Anniversary Celebration provides an opportunity for the Center to pay tribute to those who have supported the Center and have helped to further its efforts, as well as those who exemplify its mission of improving the quality of life of the community and citizens it serves; and

WHEREAS, Vassar College truly merits such recognition; and

WHEREAS, Vassar College is a highly selective, coeducational, independent, residential liberal arts college founded in 1861; renowned for its curricular innovation and for the natural beauty and architectural distinction of its campus, Vassar is consistently ranked as one of our

country's top schools; and

WHEREAS, Vassar was the first college founded with an art collection and gallery; today, its Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center holds over 18,000 works by such masters as Picasso, Rembrandt, and O'Keeffe; in 1982 Vassar became the first college to grant a bachelor's degree in cognitive science; and its newest additions include the Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film and the Interdisciplinary Robotics Research Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, Just as Vassar College is a valued and involved member of the Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County communities, hundreds of local organizations and businesses have helped Vassar students learn, contribute their skills, and earn credit beyond the classroom; more than 500 students earn such Field Work credit every year; and

WHEREAS, The college and the community come together in many other ways as well, including through the Vassar After School Tutoring program at Poughkeepsie Middle School; the Exploring Science at Vassar Farm program for elementary school students; the Good Neighbors grant program for Arlington neighborhood organizations; the Poughkeepsie Institute urban policy seminar; the annual Community Works fundraising campaign for local non-profits; and the college's deepened commitment to accessibility and affordability through, for example, its new Poughkeepsie High School Scholarship program for Vassar students who are Poughkeepsie High School graduates; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when institutions of such accomplishment are brought to its attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend them for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Vassar College upon the occasion of its designation by the Mediation Center of Dutchess County as the recipient of its Community Empowerment Award at its Silver Anniversary Celebration on April 2, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Vassar College.