

2009-J5542

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending President Lois B. DeFleur upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service to Binghamton University

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to higher 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 commend Binghamton University President Lois B. DeFleur upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service in education; she will officially retire in July of 2010; and

WHEREAS, Over her 20 years as President of Binghamton University, Lois B. DeFleur has had an impressive influence on the campus, the Southern Tier, the SUNY system and higher education in general; and

WHEREAS, Spanning two decades, President Lois B. DeFleur's continuity of stewardship and her clarity of vision have helped accelerate Binghamton University's transition from the small liberal arts college that it was in a former life into a University Center in the SUNY system, prized for its graduate studies, research programs and range of professional degrees offered by its six schools and colleges; and

WHEREAS, Binghamton University was ranked the 2009-2010 fifth best value among public colleges by Kiplinger; ranked among the nation's top 50 public universities for 13 consecutive years by US News and World

Report; ranked No. 2 in the nation for its graduate accounting program by Business Week; and

WHEREAS, With about 15,000 students, successful advancement from Division III to Division I athletic programs, and the addition of several new buildings and programs, including the Binghamton University Events Center, the Engineering and Science Building, and the University Downtown Center, Binghamton University has become a major influence on the Southern Tier as well as a major employer; and

WHEREAS, Binghamton University has partnered on many projects with organizations from the private sector, including BAE Systems, Corning Incorporated, Endicott Interconnect, General Electric, IBM and Lockheed Martin; and

WHEREAS, On August 13, 1990, when Lois B. DeFleur became President of Binghamton University, she was one of the first women in the nation to hold such a position and, as a role model, helped pave the way for others of her gender who aspire to one day sit in a CEO or College President Chair; and

WHEREAS, Educators like President Lois B. DeFleur 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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals who work to support our proud tradition of public higher education by providing their skills and talents to our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Binghamton University President Lois B. DeFleur upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service in

education; and to wish her continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to President Lois B. DeFleur.