

## 2013-J982

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Cornell University upon the occasion of celebrating the 150th Anniversary of its designation as the Land-Grant University of the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those educational institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments are clearly reflective of the pursuit of excellence in education and unparalleled service to the community; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge events of historic significance which exemplify the character and development of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Cornell University upon the occasion of celebrating the 150th Anniversary of its designation as the Land-Grant University of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable sesquicentennial will be observed with a Symposium and Reception, to be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at the New York State Education Building in Albany; speakers will include Cornell University President David Skorton, State University of New York Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and other higher education leaders; and

WHEREAS, The Morrill Land Grant Act was signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862, in recognition of the need for an educated and trained workforce to fuel our expanding young Nation and rapidly changing economy; and

WHEREAS, This watershed legislation provided each state a parcel of land to be used towards financing higher education institutions which would "promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial

classes" by teaching subjects related to agriculture and engineering in addition to classical areas of study; and

WHEREAS, The Morrill Act set the stage for Cornell University to be founded as New York's land-grant college in 1865; Ezra Cornell, then a state senator, offered an endowment and the gift of his Ithaca farm to create the eponymous university, where "any person can find instruction in any study"; his visionary generosity positioned Cornell University to become one of the world's leading educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, One of Cornell University's most enduring qualities as a land-grant institution is its deep commitment to developing knowledge that benefits communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, It has fulfilled its land-grant mission by applying university-based research to practical problems via extension and outreach throughout New York and the world over, from vegetable growing classes for New York farmers in the 1880s to Neurobiology and Behavioral Science extension in today's global metropolises; and

WHEREAS, Cornell University's public impact remains robust; in 2010, 12 companies were formed, 114 licenses negotiated, 140 patents issued, and 338 new technologies disclosed; that same year, \$764 million in research expenditures were made; and

WHEREAS, Cornell Cooperative Extension is an integral part of New York State's communities, maintaining offices in 55 counties plus New York City, annually logging one million volunteer hours to New York companies, educating 167,000 youth through 4-H and representing \$158 million in annual economic impact for the state; and

WHEREAS, The community of Cornell University can look back on its triumphant 150 year history with glowing pride, secure in the knowledge that its accomplishments have immeasurably enhanced the quality of life

for people around the globe, and can look forward, with full confidence in its strength, as it prepares for the ebb and swell of change it will encounter in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, It is only fitting that this Legislative Body extend its highest commendation to Cornell University for its unwavering commitment to fulfilling its land-grant mission of education and service to the communities of this great Empire State, and its outstanding contributions in the service of creating a better world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Cornell University upon the occasion of celebrating the 150th Anniversary of its designation as the Land-Grant University of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to David J. Skorton, President, Cornell University.