

2015-J1861

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Dr. William Richards upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 12 years of distinguished service as President of SUNY Orange

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 custom 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 Dr. William Richards upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 12 years of distinguished service as President of SUNY Orange, to be celebrated at a party held in his honor, on Thursday, June 4, 2015, in Kaplan Hall at the Newburgh Campus of SUNY Orange, Middletown, New York; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Dr. William Richards have provided 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, In 1966, William Richards graduated Magna Cum Laude from Regis College, Weston, Massachusetts, earning a bachelor's degree in both Physics and Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, William Richards furthered his education by obtaining a master's degree in English from St. Louis University, Missouri, as well as a Ph.D. in Medieval Literature, with a cognate in Higher Education

Policy from the University of Denver, Colorado, in 1987; and

WHEREAS, On August 1, 2003, Dr. William Richards was selected as President of SUNY Orange; throughout his tenure he brought a style of leadership which focused on three major objectives, including enriching lives through learning, enhancing economic opportunities in the area the college serves, and participating in and leading community development; and

WHEREAS, Prior to holding the esteemed title of President at SUNY Orange, Dr. William Richards held several positions at various educational institutions, including Coordinator at the Learning Development Center, Denver, Colorado, Dean of Developmental Studies at Community College of Denver, Colorado, Vice President of Educational Programs and Resources at North Harris College, Houston, Texas, President of Otero Junior College, La Junta, Colorado, and President of Higher Education and Advanced Technologies (HEAT) Center, Denver, Colorado, as well as CEO of the Westminster Campus at Front Range Community College, Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Richards achieved these stellar aspirations by believing in the ability of his staff and supporting their innovative teaching efforts, creativity and risk-taking to accomplish their goals; and

WHEREAS, In his first year of service at SUNY Orange, Dr. William Richards brought the campus together in a successful collaborative effort to redevelop more focused mission, vision and values statements; and

WHEREAS, After completing an in-depth Middle States self-assessment for expectations for quality, Dr. William Richards spearheaded a strate-

gic planning effort to help chart the best future course for an academic, facilities, technology and enrollment management master plan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Richards also utilized his keen sense of technology to improve the college's learning process, programs, and services;

he began an aggressive campaign to explore the private sector for funding sources for technology and other necessary resources for the school; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Richards's quest for excellence is well-known; he attributes much of his success to the dedicated ethical team of educators, supportive friends, caring and involved parents, and wonderful, enthusiastic young adults; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Richards has clearly had an enduring impact on the students of SUNY Orange, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his impressive dedication to others; 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 institutions of higher education by providing their skills and talents to our colleges; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Dr. William Richards upon the occasion of his retirement as President after more than 12 years of dedicated service to SUNY Orange, 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. William Richards.