

2015-J2492

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Dr. Donald C. Katt upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 47 years of distinguished service to SUNY Ulster and the Ulster County community

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. Donald C. Katt upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 47 years of distinguished service to SUNY Ulster and the Ulster County community, to be celebrated with a reception held in his honor on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at The Chateau, Kingston, New York; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Dr. Donald C. Katt 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, Donald C. Katt graduated from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cortland, Indiana University, and the State University of New York at Albany; in 1968, he joined the staff at SUNY Ulster, serving the student personnel; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Dr. Donald C. Katt became responsible for the development and advancement programs at SUNY Ulster; in this capacity, the Ulster Community College Foundation was ranked among the Top 20 communi-

ty college foundations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, Dr. Donald C. Katt was appointed Chief Academic Officer, and from 1994-2000, he held the titles of both Vice President and Dean of Faculty; in 2001, he held the esteemed position of President, the position from which he will officially retire in August of 2015; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure as President, Dr. Donald C. Katt presided over SUNY Ulster's growth of online education, initiation of the Police Basic Training and Veterinary Technology programs, and expansion of its Visual and Performing Arts programs; he has overseen the creation and growth of the Darlene L. Pfeiffer Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and international education programs, which are unique among community colleges in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald C. Katt's accomplishments include the implementation and growth of services for active military and veteran students, and the launch of the College's Constitutional Institute; he was also a founding President of the Hudson Valley Educational Consortium, which includes the Presidents of Orange, Rockland and Sullivan County Community Colleges; and

WHEREAS, Through Dr. Donald C. Katt's efforts, SUNY Ulster was one of the first SUNY campuses to receive approval under Governor Cuomo's Start-Up New York program for economic development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald C. Katt's dedication to his students, faculty and staff at SUNY Ulster has been his hallmark for almost five decades; under his luminous leadership, the college has increased programs and services, significantly expanding access to high education opportunities for Ulster County residents; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald C. Katt'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 students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald C. Katt has clearly had an enduring impact on the students of SUNY Ulster, 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. Donald C. Katt upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 47 years of distinguished service to SUNY Ulster and the Ulster County community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Donald C. Katt.