

## 2015-J4794

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Sister Denise A. Roche upon the occasion of her retirement after 36 years of distinguished service to D'Youville College, in Buffalo, New York

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 Sister Denise A. Roche upon the occasion of her retirement after 36 years of distinguished service to D'Youville College, in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Sister Denise A. Roche 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, A Buffalo, New York, native, Denise A. Roche entered the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in 1961; she earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology and Social Work at D'Youville College, and received her master's degree in Sociology at Boston University; she furthered her education by obtaining her doctorate at the University of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Sister Denise A. Roche began her illustrious career at her alma mater, D'Youville College, holding numerous positions including

instructor, teaching assistant, assistant professor, Chair of the sociology department, associate dean, and assistant to the Dean of Academic Services, as well as assistant to the Dean of Faculty; and

WHEREAS, At the young age of 37, Sister Denise A. Roche was named the 14th President of the College in October of 1979, a position from which she will officially retire on July 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Under her luminous leadership, enrollment grew from 1,153 students in 1980, to approximately 3,000 students today; the college endowment was \$1.2 million then and is now more than \$38 million, and the annual budget now stands at nearly \$60 million; and

WHEREAS, Sister Denise A. Roche was instrumental in the addition and development of a significant number of new academic programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level at the private college including occupational and physical therapy, physician assistant, dietetics, community health nursing, nurse practitioner, health care management, health policy and education, educational leadership, chiropractic, pharmacy and most recently, health analytics; in addition, several cooperative programs with the Buffalo Public Schools were also implemented; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Sister Denise A. Roche implemented an international student recruiting program; at one time D'Youville College enrolled the most Canadian students of any college or university in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Sister Denise A. Roche created a nationally recognized veterans program, enrolling more than 500 veterans and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, Under her leadership, more than \$100 million was invested into the physical expansion of the West Side campus; projects included were the new Montante Family Library in the former Holy Angels School, a

new gymnasium, student apartments, a new academic center, a Niagara Street office building, and major building renovations as well as a new athletic field at the foot of Porter Avenue; a new Arts and Science

Building on Niagara Street is scheduled for completion this fall; and  
WHEREAS, In addition to her exceptional and inspiring work at  
D'Youville College, Sister Denise Roche has served on the boards of  
numerous community institutions ranging from the United Way, American  
Red Cross, AIDS Family Services and the Association of Colleges and  
Universities; and

WHEREAS, For her many accomplishments and steadfast commitment to the  
College, Sister Denise Roche has been the recipient of numerous awards  
and accolades including the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal from the  
State University of New York at Buffalo, honorary degrees from Canisius  
College and Niagara University, being named 1994 Citizen of the Year by  
THE BUFFALO NEWS, and inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame; and  
WHEREAS, Sister Denise Roche's quest for excellence is well-known; she  
attributes much of her success to the dedicated ethical team of educa-  
tors, supportive friends, caring and involved parents, and wonderful,  
enthusiastic young adults; and

WHEREAS, Sister Denise Roche has clearly had an enduring impact on the  
students of D'Youville College, as well as on the community-at-large,  
and accordingly merits recognition and applause for her impressive dedi-  
cation 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 Sister Denise A. Roche upon the occasion of her retirement after  
36 years of distinguished service to D'Youville College, and to wish her  
continued success in all of her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-  
smitted to Sister Denise A. Roche.