

2015-J5581

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Dr. William W. Destler upon the occasion of his retirement after nine years of distinguished service as President of the Rochester Institute of Technology

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 W. Destler upon the occasion of his retirement after nine years of distinguished service as President of the Rochester Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Dr. William W. Destler 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, William W. Destler earned his bachelor's degree from Stevens Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. from Cornell University in the field of Applied Physics; and

WHEREAS, An international authority on high-power microwave sources and advanced accelerator concepts, Dr. William W. Destler is best known for his pioneering work in the collective acceleration of heavy ions where he achieved the highest energies to date by this method, and for his development of large orbit microwave devices; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William W. Destler has also consulted for government agencies and private firms, published more than 200 journal articles and book chapters, and presented many papers; he has also directed 18 master's and doctoral student theses and earned multiple awards for his teaching; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his arrival at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Dr. William W. Destler worked for more than 30 years at the University of Maryland, rising from the ranks of Research Associate to Senior Vice President and Provost; he also served as Electrical Engineering Department Chair, Dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering, Interim Vice President for University Advancement, Vice President for Research, and Dean of the graduate school; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Dr. William W. Destler became the ninth President of RIT in the university's 186-year history; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure, Dr. William W. Destler was responsible for one of the nation's leading career-oriented universities, including a family of 18,000 students from all 50 states and more than 100 foreign countries, 115,000 alumni, and 3,400 faculty members and staff; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed educational leader has also helped RIT become recognized as a leader in green initiatives by the Sierra Club, and a "Great College to Work For" by THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, as well as a hub of innovation and creativity; and

WHEREAS, A member of numerous academic and professional organizations, Dr. William W. Destler serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Association of Independent Technological Universities and the American Council on Education's Commission on Effective Leadership; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William W. Destler also serves on the boards of the National Institute of Aerospace Foundation and New York's Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, as well as the steering committee

for the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment;
and

WHEREAS, Dr. William W. Destler has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; he serves on numerous community boards including the Rochester General Health System, Greater Rochester Enterprise, Rochester Business Alliance, Golisano Family Foundation, High Tech of Rochester and Torvec Inc.; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Rebecca, and their two children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William W. Destler has clearly had an enduring impact on the students of the Rochester Institute of Technology, 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 W. Destler upon the occasion of his retirement after nine years of distinguished service as President of the Rochester Institute of Technology, 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 W. Destler.