

## 2015-J5618

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Roberts Wesleyan College upon the occasion of celebrating its 150th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate an enduring pursuit of excellence in higher education for the youth of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Roberts Wesleyan College, in Rochester, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating its 150th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, For 150 years, Roberts Wesleyan College has been committed to character development, Christ-centered education, transformational learning and service; the College's three fundamental values include scholarship, spiritual formation and service, and strategic focus on transformational experiences, as well as engaged service and innovative programs; and

WHEREAS, With an enrollment of 1,712 students and a tradition of excellence since 1866, the college strives to inspire students to transform themselves and the world, by offering more than 50 undergraduate programs taught by high quality, supportive faculty and graduate programs in business, education, health administration, healthcare informatics administration, marketing, nursing, school counseling and school psychology, and social work; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, innovative undergraduate degree-completion programs are also available for working adults in health administration, nursing, criminal justice, organizational management and teacher education; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, Roberts Wesleyan College was recognized as one of

the Great Colleges to Work For by THE CHRONICLE; and

WHEREAS, Roberts Wesleyan College's storied history began in 1866, when The Reverend B.T. Roberts, the first bishop of the Free Methodist Church, founded Chili Seminary, which later became Roberts Wesleyan College; he designed the school in hopes of preparing well-educated young people to become servant-leaders of high character which he felt were greatly needed in America; and

WHEREAS, In 1869, Chili Seminary was authorized for public academic instruction, and in 1885, the name was changed to A.M. Chesbrough Seminary, and then to Roberts Junior College; and

WHEREAS, Over six decades later, the school was granted senior college status and Wesleyan was added to the name to designate Free Methodist affiliation; three years later, courses were registered and the charter was made permanent; in 1964, the college attained regional accreditation; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, the Trustees of Roberts Wesleyan College founded Northeastern Seminary on its campus as a graduate school of theology to prepare women and men for Christian ministry, both lay and ordained; the Seminary endeavors to prepare its students for ministry in today's modern culture; and

WHEREAS, For 150 years, Roberts Wesleyan College, through its rich Christian heritage and dedication to "education for character," has equipped thoughtful, spiritually mature, service-oriented people who will help transform society, by integrating a Christian worldview and learning into everyday life and work; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the visionary guidance of Dr. Deana L. Porterfield, Roberts Wesleyan College stands proud and prominent, always look-

ing to the future and the needs of those it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Roberts Wesleyan College, noting

the propriety of its goals, the constancy of its commitment and the significance of its accomplishments in preparing the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Deana L. Porterfield, Roberts Wesleyan College.