

2015-J6028

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Thomas F. Schutte, Ph.D. upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service as President at Pratt Institute

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 Thomas F. Schutte, Ph.D. upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service as 11th President at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, following the end of the 2016-2017 academic year; and

WHEREAS, The Pratt Board of Trustees have asked Dr. Thomas F. Schutte to remain involved with Pratt Institute after next summer, when he will assume the title of President Emeritus on July 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Dr. Thomas F. Schutte 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 1993, Dr. Thomas F. Schutte joined Pratt Institute following a decade of acclaimed service as President of the Rhode Island School of Design; at that time, the Institute was a commuter school with about 2,700 mostly local and commuter students; today, it enrolls about

4,700 students from around the globe, with 90 percent of its freshmen living on campus; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure at Pratt Institute, Dr. Thomas F. Schutte presided over the renewal of the Institute's Brooklyn campus, including the construction of five academic buildings and strategic acquisitions of property in the borough, as well as the purchase and renovation of Pratt's campus on 14th Street in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas F. Schutte transformed Pratt Institute into one of the world's leading colleges of art, design, and architecture, and he has been praised for a series of successful organizational, fiscal, and academic initiatives that have catapulted Pratt into the very top echelons of art and design colleges worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Due to Dr. Thomas F. Schutte's dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence, Pratt Institute is recognized as a leader in art and design education, as evidenced by the record number of student applications the Institute receives each year, by the artistic and scholarly renown of its faculty, and by the superlative achievements of its alumni; and

WHEREAS, As one of Pratt's most transformative leaders, Dr. Thomas F. Schutte will be remembered for a deep commitment to academic excellence, diversity, sustainability and fiscal stability, and greater impact within the borough of Brooklyn, across the nation, and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Under Dr. Thomas F. Schutte's luminous leadership, important steps have been taken to position Pratt in the vanguard of art and design colleges for decades to come; the Institute's investments in its beautiful campus, creative scholarship, and global programs will provide a solid foundation for a successor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas F. Schutte attributes much of his success to the entire Pratt community of dedicated Board members, faculty, staff, alumni, supportive friends, caring and involved parents, and wonderful, enthusiastic students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas F. Schutte has clearly had an enduring impact on the students at Pratt Institute, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his impressive dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, Tess, who feels privileged to be part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; 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 Thomas F. Schutte, Ph.D. upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service as President at Pratt Institute; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Thomas F. Schutte, Ph.D.