

2013-J4242

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION, commending Dr. D. David Conklin upon the occasion of the completion of his tenure as President of Dutchess Community College, after many years of distinguished service on behalf of higher education

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great 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. D. David Conklin upon the occasion of the completion of his tenure as President of Dutchess Community College, after many years of distinguished service on behalf of higher education, effective August 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Dr. D. David Conklin was appointed Dutchess Community College President in September of 1992; during his tenure, he added more than 20 academic programs, bringing the number of A.A., A.S., A.A.S. and certificate programs to 64; and

WHEREAS, Over the years at Dutchess Community College, Dr. D. David Conklin guided the growth of enrollment of students from fewer than 7,000 students to more than 10,000; and

WHEREAS, During the tenure of Dr. D. David Conklin, facilities have been added, renovated, and enhanced to better serve students including the Allyn J. Washington Center for Science and Art, Hudson Hall, Bowne Hall, a Student Services Center, and 110 "smart" classrooms and labs which offer state-of-the-art technology; and

WHEREAS, Dr. D. David Conklin's extensive administrative experience was recognized by the Dutchess Community College Board of Trustees in

their decision to name the school's first on-campus residence hall, which was constructed and opened in August of 2012, after him in honor of his 20 years of service and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Under Dr. D. David Conklin's leadership, Dutchess Community College has become one of the most highly respected community colleges in the SUNY system receiving top marks from its students for quality of education, availability of instructors outside of class and in the quality of library and classroom facilities; in addition, it is the college of choice for residents of Dutchess County as approximately 39% of college-bound high school students in Dutchess County attend Dutchess Community College; and

WHEREAS, The Dutchess Community College Foundation grew from \$280,069 in assets to nearly \$7 million in his tenure, enabling the College to award more than \$110,000 a year in scholarships to high-achieving students; and

WHEREAS, The college's collection of artwork has grown to \$2.65 million in value and has been recognized with the Dutchess County Arts Council Award for Artwork in Public Places and the Dutchess County Executive's Award for Arts in Education; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Dr. D. David Conklin also earned a master's degree from Pennsylvania State University, and a Ph.D. in higher education from New York University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. D. David Conklin has published many articles on community colleges and presented at regional and national conferences including the College Board National Forum, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools Annual Conference, and the American Association of Community Colleges' Annual Conference; and

WHEREAS, His volunteer service to the Mid-Hudson Valley region is well-known through his current service on the board of directors of Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC), the College Board National Advisory Panel, American

Association of Community Colleges' Commission on Economic Workforce Development and as Treasurer of the New York Community College Association Presidents; and

WHEREAS, His past volunteer service to the Mid-Hudson Valley region is remembered with the Dutchess County United Way, Saint Francis Hospital Board of Trustees, Community Foundation of Dutchess County, Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Hudson Valley Council of Boy Scouts of America, Mid-Hudson Civic Center, the former Poughkeepsie Area Chamber of Commerce, and as chair of the Empire Zone Administrative Board; and

WHEREAS, As President of Dutchess Community College, Dr. D. David Conklin has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at the College for the benefit of its faculty and students, as well as for the entire community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Dr. D. David Conklin upon the occasion of the completion of his tenure, as President of Dutchess Community College, after many years of distinguished service on behalf of higher education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. D. David Conklin.