

2013-J5023

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Marnie LaVigne upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 Stewardship Award by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are enhanced by the concerned and dedicated efforts of business organizations and individuals that generously contribute to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Marnie LaVigne upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 Stewardship Award by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce; this momentous occasion will be celebrated at the Chamber's Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon and Showcase, to be held on Friday, May 16, 2014, at Samuel's Grande Manor, Williamsville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Amherst Chamber of Commerce is one of the 10 largest chambers in New York State due to its steadfast commitment to providing services members need to grow their business and prosperity; each May, the Chamber hosts a luncheon to honor seven outstanding individuals and small businesses in Western New York for their vast contributions to the region; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marnie LaVigne has spent more than 25 years in both the private and public sectors creating new products and start-up businesses involving innovative applications of technology in a broad range of health care and life sciences sectors; and

WHEREAS, In addition to work in major managed care, pharmaceutical and medical device companies, Dr. Marnie LaVigne has also held executive management roles in entrepreneurial organizations in health informatics

that led to two initial public offerings (IPOs); and

WHEREAS, After seven years leading the University at Buffalo's (UB) efforts in growing the region's life sciences sector through the New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, in 2012, Dr. Marnie LaVigne was named Associate Vice President for Economic Development at UB; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Dr. Marnie LaVigne leverages university-based resources and strong collaborations with government and industry partners to spark innovation for better quality of life while driving growth of the region's economy; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Dr. Marnie LaVigne's efforts have yielded more than a 60:1 return in economic impact and hundreds of jobs as a steward of state funding; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to work with individuals and organizations to help the community reach its potential in the new knowledge economy, Dr. Marnie LaVigne regularly mentors both youth and adults; she also launched a career pathways program, iSciWNY, which has introduced thousands of people to the rewards and opportunities in high-tech industry within the local community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marnie LaVigne has worked with hundreds of entrepreneurs and collaborated with colleagues to introduce gold standard business support programs, such as Launch NY, the Bright Buffalo Niagara venture forum, and the Pre-Seed Workshop; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she has played an integral role in planning and new program development for the WNYREDC, as well as the Billion for Buffalo efforts which includes the new genomic medicine initiative; and

WHEREAS, In these diverse roles, Dr. Marnie LaVigne brings a rich academic background with an Associate's degree in Neuroscience and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Rochester; and

WHEREAS, Active within her community, Dr. Marnie LaVigne regularly volunteers her expertise as an editorial board member for Disease

Management and as a member of the Board of Directors for Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, the Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Investment Board, New York State Economic Development Council, Western New York Venture Association, Insyte Consulting, and Launch NY; and WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. Marnie LaVigne; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Marnie LaVigne upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 Stewardship Award by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Marnie LaVigne.