

## 2015-J2314

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the College and Community Fellowship upon the occasion of hosting its 15th Annual Graduate Celebration on June 4, 2015

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those organizations within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary organizations and individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the College and Community Fellowship upon the occasion of hosting its 15th Annual Graduate Celebration on Thursday, June 4, 2015, at the Interchurch Center in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, College and Community Fellowship (CCF) helps formerly incarcerated women earn their college degrees by providing social coaching, academic support, and career development training; formerly incarcerated women from an oft-forgotten and growing population with a great deal to contribute to college campuses and academia in general; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of its Executive Director since 2001, Vivian Nixon, CCF encourages economic stability and self-sufficiency, and truly changes the lives of the women who come through its programs, as well as their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, CCF eliminates individual and structural barriers to higher education, economic security and civic participation for formerly incarcerated women; this vital organization guides women seeking to reclaim their lives through the stages of higher

education while promoting their leadership, self-advocacy, artistic impression and long-term success; and

WHEREAS, CCF's services begin with outreach within women's prisons in New York State, New York City jails, and among the various community-based and alternative to incarceration organizations that serve women who are in the process of re-entry, recovery and rebuilding; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 2000, College and Community Fellowship helped six women attend college after leaving prison in its first year; since that time, hundreds more have advanced academically; cumulatively, CCF Fellows have earned 46 associate, 120 bachelor, 61 master's degrees and one Ph.D.; and

WHEREAS, This year's distinguished graduates include: Tiheba Bain, AA, Bronx Community College, CUNY; Yolanda Harper, AAS, Bronx Community College, CUNY; Zaida Sanchez, AA, Bronx Community College, CUNY; L'Tanya Smith, AAS, Bronx Community College, CUNY; Lettisha Boyd, BA, School of Professional Studies, CUNY; Courtayne J. Charley, BA, the College of New Rochelle; Kandra L. Clark, BA, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY; Wanda M. Daniels, BA, the College of New Rochelle; Tammy Harris, BA, the College of New Rochelle; Erica M. Heinze, BA, the College of New Rochelle; Sileah Grant, BS, Kaplan University; Octrisha Parker, BA, Lehman College, CUNY; Iris Bowen, MSW, Lehman College, CUNY; Luisa Gonzalez, MSW, Hunter College, CUNY; and Sharon R. Stewart, MA, Capella University; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the College and Community Fellowship upon the occasion of hosting its 15th Annual Graduate Celebration on June 4, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Vivian Nixon, Executive Director, College and Community Fellowship.