

2015-J4382

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Dr. Cornelius J. Milliken upon the occasion of the completion of his tenure as Member and Chair of the Corning Community College Regional Board of Trustees, 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. Cornelius J. Milliken upon the occasion of the completion of his tenure as Member and Chair of the Corning Community College Regional Board of Trustees, after many years of distinguished service on behalf of higher education effective June of 2016; and

WHEREAS, He was the first Corning Community College alumnus to serve as Chair of the Regional Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cornelius J. Milliken, fondly referred to as "Neil," recruited Dr. Katherine P. Douglas, as Corning Community College's sixth president; during his tenure, he guided an inclusive and comprehensive review and revision of the College's vision, mission and values leading to the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan and budget allocation process aligned with its objective; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, Dr. Cornelius J. Milliken established the Presidential Scholars Program, giving unprecedented financial and scholarly support to academically-motivated students in the College's service area; in addition, he opened the College's first residence hall, Perry Hall, ensuring access to students outside the service area; and

WHEREAS, Leading the campaign to raise private funds and enable the

College to leverage additional monies, Dr. Cornelius J. Milliken was instrumental in transforming the Arthur A. Houghton, Jr. Library, establishing the Learning Commons, launching the Enrollment Advisement Center, and orchestrating an inspiring renewal of the College's athletic facilities; and

WHEREAS, At Corning Community College's 2014 graduation, Dr. Cornelius J. Milliken awarded an honorary doctorate, the second in the College's history, to Professor Herbert Gross, founding faculty member of the Mathematics Department; and

WHEREAS, Last year, Dr. Cornelius J. Milliken secured unqualified 10-year re-accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education which provided external validation of the College's quality; he also inaugurated its StartUp NY tax-free zone in Airport Corporate Park which incentivized businesses to locate in the region; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Cornelius J. Milliken has overseen a number of significant initiatives for the College including developing the region's first P-Tech Program entitled the Southern Tier STEM Academy, which recognizes the need for alternative forms of education and the value of a college degree; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cornelius J. Milliken also procured inaugural URI funds for a Health Education Center in downtown Corning, paving the way for a vibrant downtown presence and a gateway to the Spencer Hill campus as well as advancing a University Center on the Spencer Hill campus with partner institutions awarding bachelor's degrees and making advanced degrees accessible and affordable to more students; and

WHEREAS, Looking to the future, Dr. Cornelius J. Milliken's luminous leadership has helped garner campus, county, and state approval of the Facilities Master Plan, which will guide campus renewal projects through

2020; he has also led the restructuring of the College for the 21st Century, reaffirming its commitment to mission-driven initiatives; and

WHEREAS, As Member and Chair of the Corning Community College Regional

Board of Trustees, Dr. Cornelius J. Milliken 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. Cornelius J. Milliken upon the occasion of the completion of his tenure as Member and Chair of the Corning Community College Regional Board of Trustees, 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. Cornelius J. Milliken.