

## 2015-J5942

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring President Stephen Jerome upon the occasion of celebrating his 50 years of successful leadership and service to Monroe College, and as a Founder and Chair of the Board of the Association of Proprietary Colleges for over 25 Years on June 21, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge 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 honor

President Stephen Jerome upon the occasion of celebrating his 50 years of successful leadership and service to Monroe College, and as a Founder and Chair of the Board of the Association of Proprietary Colleges for over 25 Years, to be feted at an event on Tuesday, June 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, A native of the Bronx, Stephen Jerome earned his bachelor's degree from Pace University and his Master of Science degree from Baruch College, where he remains an active supporter; and

WHEREAS, Since 1978, Stephen Jerome has held the esteemed title of President of one of the Bronx's best-regarded colleges, Monroe College, where students receive positive life-changing experiences leading to fulfilling careers; and

WHEREAS, Under President Stephen Jerome's able guidance, Monroe College provides unmatched professional, career-orientated higher education to students from over 75 countries, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college; and

WHEREAS, Monroe College offers its students associate, baccalaureate and graduate programs with campuses in the Bronx, New Rochelle and Saint Lucia; the College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on

Higher Education, and its programs of study are authorized by the New York State Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, According to US NEWS & WORLD REPORT, Monroe College is the most affordable ranked private college in New York State, with tuition approximately 50% less than the average private college in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Futhermore, Monroe College is ranked third in New York State for its online bachelor's degree program, and WASHINGTON MONTHLY magazine listed the College 62nd of all institutions of higher education conferring master's degrees; and

WHEREAS, Students at Monroe College are challenged to enrich their lives in a personalized and supportive environment, and are prepared for successful careers by faculty who are passionate, knowledgeable and dedicated to their student's success; and

WHEREAS, In the past five years, over 14,000 students have graduated from Monroe College, and students enrolled in the three semester academic year may graduate in three years with a bachelor's degree, with these students achieving a graduation rate of 65%; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, through President Stephen Jerome's visionary leadership, Monroe College is among the leading colleges nationally for graduating minority students; and

WHEREAS, For over 25 years, Stephen Jerome has served as the President of the Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC); throughout his tenure, he has represented APC member colleges and their students by providing testimony at the state and national levels advocating for programs which support the best interests of students, promote equality among all sectors of higher education and stronger recognition of the positive outcomes of these colleges and their graduates; and

WHEREAS, Along with his role as President of the APC, Stephen Jerome holds the title of Vice President of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, and was the former Commissioner of the Accrediting Commission of the Associ-

ation of Independent Colleges and Schools; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Jerome is also a vital participant of the New York State Education Commissioner's Advisory Council, and served as a former member of the College Presidents' Council for the Governor's Office on New York State Financial Aid and the Board of Trustees of the Dwight-Englewood School; and

WHEREAS, Committed to his community, President Stephen Jerome was instrumental in the creation of the Fordham Road BID, and has held the title of President of the Fordham Road Area Development Corporation; in this capacity, he coordinated the rehabilitation of Fordham Road while enhancing area businesses, arranged annual Christmas parties for the children of Monroe College students, and assisted local community organizations with special projects focused on improving safety by enhanced lighting, graffiti removal, and neighborhood improvement initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Educators like President Stephen Jerome 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, President Stephen Jerome has clearly had an enduring impact on the youth of Monroe College, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his impressive dedication to others; 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 public education by providing their skills and talents to our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor President Stephen Jerome upon the occasion of celebrating his 50 years of successful leadership and service to Monroe College, and as a Founder and Chair of the Board of the Association of Proprietary Colleges for over 25 Years; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to President Stephen Jerome.