

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS**

RESOLUTION

COMMENDATION OF CHANCELLOR WAYNE D. WATSON

WHEREAS, Dr. Wayne D. Watson began his educational journey by enrolling as a student at a small community college in Joliet, Illinois – Joliet Junior College. He continued his education by attending Northwestern University where he earned the following degrees: a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Arts in Teaching, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education Administration; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Watson’s tenure with the City Colleges of Chicago began on February 8, 1978. He distinguished himself during his first twenty years with the District by serving in the following capacities: Dean of Instruction, Vice President at Malcolm X College, Interim President of Harold Washington College, President of Kennedy-King College and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Watson was appointed Chancellor of the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) on March 8, 1998. He was chosen by the Board of Trustees to head CCC’s system of seven independently accredited colleges, including Richard J. Daley College, Kennedy-King College, Malcolm X College, Olive-Harvey College, Harry S. Truman College, Harold Washington College and Wilbur Wright College, and their satellite locations, including Arturo Velásquez Institute, West Side Learning Center, Dawson Technical Institute, Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center, Harold Washington College’s Hospitality Program, South Chicago Learning Center, Lakeview Learning Center, the French Pastry School, the Workforce Institute, and Truman Technical Center; a state of the art culinary school – Washburne Culinary Institute, two restaurants – the Parrot Cage and the Sikia; popular radio station WKKC and award-winning television station WYCC-TV20; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Watson’s leadership, in conjunction with the efforts of his team, encompassed the institution of multiple innovative changes that he perceived as vital for achieving the excellence in education he so passionately fought to bring to Chicago’s diverse and underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, such changes include:

- ∞ Amendment of the District’s Fiscal Management Policy to make financial processes more efficient and transparent;
- ∞ Creation of the Annual Program and Service Analysis (APSA) evaluation process to measure the fiscal, qualitative and quantitative effectiveness of CCC’s programs and services and to provide input and establish metrics for evaluating the progress toward CCC’s strategic plan;

- ☞ Development and implementation of a District-wide student recruitment and retention initiative;
- ☞ Development and implementation of staff development initiatives including the District-wide Leadership Institute and the Leadership Academy;
- ☞ Establishment of the Office of Developmental Education to provide professional development and technical support to the colleges in their efforts to increase the number of students who successfully complete college preparatory courses;
- ☞ Production of town hall meetings that are broadcast on WYCC thereby affording students, faculty and the community opportunities to discuss and exchange opinions on important current issues; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Watson served as Chancellor for more than a decade, having completed his eleventh year last winter; and through his dedication, compassion, honesty, leadership, and integrity he has distinguished himself as one of the nation's premier managers of an urban community college district; and

WHEREAS, in addition to fulfilling his responsibilities as Chancellor, Dr. Watson provided guidance, leadership and service to numerous organizations in various capacities, including, the Northwestern University Board of Trustees, the Fantus Health Center Board of Trustees, the Chicago Botanic Garden Board of Trustees, the Capital Campaign Committee for DuSable Museum of African American History and the Capital Campaign Leadership Committee for the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture ("IPRAC"); and

WHEREAS, during his administration, Dr. Watson and his team amassed numerous accomplishments, including such highlights as:

- ☞ Achievement of the highest accreditation status (10 years) awarded by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools for all seven colleges. This is the first time in the City Colleges' 97-year history that all seven colleges concurrently hold this status;
- ☞ Creation of Project ALIGN, a high school/college partnership with the primary goal of improving college readiness of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students. Project ALIGN involves direct collaboration with CPS and five Illinois universities and articulates CPS' exit standards with CCC's entrance criteria for English and mathematics courses;
- ☞ Negotiation, twelve months early, of an unprecedented 5-year labor agreement with the Cook County College Teachers Union (CCCTU) Local 1600 that ensures six years of institutional continuity. The agreement was ratified by 86% of the CCCTU faculty and 92% of the CCCTU professionals;

- ☞ Conception and authorship, in tandem with United States Congressman Danny K. Davis and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), of congressional legislation that resulted in predominantly African-American institutions being eligible to apply for \$600,000 per year (for two years) in additional funding from the federal government. In the Fall of 2008, three of CCC's institutions were chosen to receive funding totaling \$3.6 million pursuant to this legislation;
- ☞ Revision and alignment of the Adult Education curriculum to raise it to Illinois Community College Board and National Reporting System levels, to include student learning outcomes, lesson plans and syllabi. Also, spearheaded the development of a college transition course for Adult Education students;
- ☞ Establishment of a study abroad program for students and faculty, whereby students participated in study abroad initiatives in Xian, China; Salzburg, Austria; and Salamanca, Spain; and whereby faculty and students participated in the Salzburg Seminar which emphasized the impact of globalization on curriculum. The Study Abroad program has flourished for five years and afforded direct benefits to 105 students and 57 faculty;
- ☞ Participation in teamwork that resulted in the issuance of a \$385 million bond program to build the new Kennedy-King College and make capital improvements for the remaining six colleges in the District. In the fall of 2007, the new Kennedy-King College Campus opened in the heart of Chicago's Englewood community. It is a crown jewel in Englewood. The 40-acre campus consists of six state-of-the-art buildings, a day care center, a theatre, the WKKC-FM radio and WYCC-TV20 production studios, the Washburne Culinary Institute and the Sikia Restaurant;
- ☞ Establishment of a Construction Trades Program that partnered with targeted unions to bring their respective apprenticeship programs under the auspices of CCC Dawson Technical Institute; and
- ☞ Creation of a new District-wide Workforce Institute that proactively interacted with the Mayor's staff, the Office of Workforce Development and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce to provide entry level and incumbent training in Transportation, Warehousing and Logistics (TWL); manufacturing; hospitality; healthcare and construction trades.

WHEREAS, Dr. Watson has willingly and openly shared the knowledge of his office with the Vice Chancellors and College Presidents of the City Colleges of Chicago and unselfishly divided his time and talents among the seven colleges and the communities they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 508, County of Cook and State of Illinois, gathered here on this fourteenth day of July, 2009 do hereby commend Dr. Wayne D. Watson for his invaluable contributions to the District and his unwavering commitment to the students and staff of the City Colleges of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we now congratulate Dr. Wayne D. Watson, Chancellor Emeritus, for his noteworthy career and express our sincere best wishes for his success in future endeavors.

July 14, 2009