WHEREAS, upon the passing of Saundra W. Banyard on September 25, 2010, the Board of Trustees and the entire City Colleges of Chicago community lost an outstanding leader, superb administrator and guiding light for many whose lives were touched by her warm spirit and genuine passion for helping students;

WHEREAS, Saundra W. Banyard was born on August 24, 1952 in Brooklyn, New York and obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from Princeton University and her Masters Degree in Public Administration from Governor’s State University;

WHEREAS, Saundra confidently served City Colleges of Chicago in various capacities over her 20 year career helping to shepherd the education of our students, beginning her career at City Colleges in 1985 as an Instructional Coordinator with the United Auto Workers Ford Basic Skills Enhancement Program coordinating the adult education program for employees at the Ford Assembly Plant in Chicago;

WHEREAS, during her noteworthy career at City Colleges of Chicago she distinguished herself by excelling in many different positions, including Dean of Continuing Education, Director of Financial Aid, and Dean of Student Services at Harold Washington College and as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Kennedy King College and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Harold Washington College before her retirement on July 1, 2010;

WHEREAS, Saundra demonstrated her passion for education and serving the community at large by continuous and dedicated involvement in educational and civic organizations, including the Chicago Urban League, the Harold Washington College Chapter of the Association of Women in Community Colleges, the National Academic Advisors Association, the Harold Washington College Women Studies Committee and the Special Student Services Task Force;

WHEREAS, Saundra’s commitment to education was recognized when she received the 2003 American Association of Women in Community Colleges Woman of the Year Award for Harold Washington College for improving the educational experience of students;
WHEREAS, in her leisure time, Saundra was an ardent jazz aficionado and gifted singer; she also loved traveling, competitive board games and was a voracious reader; and

WHEREAS, she was a supportive, empowering and understanding colleague and mentor of City Colleges of Chicago faculty, staff and students;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman, the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees mourns the loss of Saundra W. Banyard, a former colleague who was a personable, warm and caring friend and who will be long remembered by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Memorial Resolution will be presented to Saundra W. Banyard’s family as a symbol of the Board’s honor, deepest sympathy and heartfelt respect for our dear colleague and friend: we are profoundly grateful for her loyalty and commitment to students and the many contributions she made to the advancement of City Colleges of Chicago.

October 7, 2010