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**ADOPTED - BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508**

APRIL 7, 2011

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

RESOLUTION

JAMES C. TYREE

FORMER BOARD CHAIRMAN

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the City Colleges of Chicago records with sorrow the untimely passing of former Board Chairman, James C. Tyree, who lived an exemplary and extraordinary life as an innovative business leader, generous philanthropist and loyal friend to many;

WHEREAS, James C. Tyree, a South Side native, was born on October 30, 1957, in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood to a working class family and was the youngest of seven children;

WHEREAS, at an early age, Mr. Tyree took to heart the sage advice given to him to "always reach your potential", he enrolled in classes at City Colleges of Chicago while still a student at Marist High School which enabled him to attain his bachelor's degree in business in 1978 from Illinois State University in just 3 years;

WHEREAS, he continued his educational pursuits by receiving an MBA from Illinois State University and paid for his education by working and was the recipient of various scholarships and grants;

WHEREAS, in 1980, he began working at Mesirow Financial as a research associate and with hard work, intelligence and a collaborative spirit, quickly rose through the ranks to become president of the company at the age of 30 and served as chairman and chief executive officer of Mesirow Financial from 1994 until his death. Mr. Tyree attributed his success to being "ahead of the curve" while always remaining humble noting, "I am the sum total of everyone I've ever worked with";

WHEREAS, Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Mr. Tyree to the Board of Trustees of City Colleges and during his distinguished tenure as Chairman from June 28, 2000 through March 4, 2010, he initiated a number of innovative programs, including a yearly quality improvement analysis to enhance programs and educational opportunities, symposiums with civic and business leaders that examined strategies to support the City Colleges' mission within a national and international context, a series of televised town-hall meetings bringing students and faculty together for discussion on issues such as stem-cell research and the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision;

WHEREAS, in 2004, Mr. Tyree was integral in negotiating the labor contract with Union Local 1600 and personally intervened to bring an end to the faculty strike that preceded the agreement and was integral in ensuring the construction of the new Kennedy-King College campus. Mr. Tyree also received the 2007 Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award from the Illinois Community College Trustees' Association. Mr. Tyree's numerous contributions to City Colleges remain part of the fiber of City Colleges today;

WHEREAS, one of Mr. Tyree's great passions was serving as a devoted advocate for the community in which he worked and lived and he felt an unwavering "responsibility to give back." Although he faced many health challenges throughout much of his adult life, Mr. Tyree continually overcame those challenges with unrelenting energy to leave an indelible mark on more than 50 corporate, civic and not-for-profit organizations through active and influential leadership in support of industry, healthcare, education and children;

WHEREAS, Mr. Tyree's civic and charitable work included the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce (past chairman), The Executives' Club of Chicago (past chairman), Roosevelt University, Saint Xavier University, University of Chicago Medical Center, Illinois State University Foundation, Illinois Institute of Technology, Illinois Education Foundation and Big Shoulders Fund, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International, for which he was named the 2004 Person of the Year and chaired the organization's campaign to raise \$1 billion for research in four years;

WHEREAS, despite his busy schedule, he always made time for his family and made friends with people from all walks of life with ease due to his approachable nature and good humor and will be warmly remembered by all of his City Colleges family who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tyree brought vision, an unyielding determination, passion, optimism and humility to everything he did.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that while the Chairman, the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees and the entire City Colleges community mourns the loss of James C. Tyree, an exceptional and inspirational leader, we also celebrate him as a shining example of how to flourish, at times against the odds, by living life to the fullest extent possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Memorial Resolution will be presented to Mr. Tyree's family as a symbol of the Board's honor, deepest sympathy and heartfelt respect for our dear colleague and friend: we will forever cherish the fond memories we have of him and we are deeply grateful for his loyalty and commitment; his remarkable legacy will continue through the many contributions he made to the City of Chicago and the advancement of City Colleges.