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ADOPTED – BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

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

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
PROFESSOR LARRY E. ROSS

WHEREAS, Larry E. Ross, professor and coordinator of both the Addiction Studies and Social Work Programs at Kennedy-King College, transitioned from this life on Monday, July 11, 2011;

WHEREAS, Professor Ross started his academic career at Kennedy-King College where he received an Associate's degree and later, a Bachelor's degree in Social Work (BSW) from Governor's State University, and a Master's degree in Social Work from Aurora University;

WHEREAS, he launched his professional career at Kennedy-King College in 1987 and became a Full-time Faculty member serving as an Addiction Studies program coordinator/instructor and founder/coordinator of the KKC Social Work Program and Club and encouraged students to pursue professional Social Work networking opportunities and sponsored students trips to the annual National Social Work Conference hosted in a different state each year;

WHEREAS, Professor Ross received the prestigious Distinguished Professor Award for his unparalleled commitment to student success and outstanding accomplishments with students;

WHEREAS, he demanded academic excellence and refused to grade on a "curve" but was willing to offer all students support services to improve their grades believing all people deserve "a second chance";

WHEREAS, a proponent of self-actualization, he encouraged students to take control of their destiny based on Dr. William Glasser's Choice Theory that states: "The only person whose behavior we can control is our own";

WHEREAS, Professor Ross, a trusted mentor, advisor, confidante, motivator and friend to all students was highly respected for being honest and genuine. He followed the educational theory of noted psychologist Dr. Carl Rogers that posits, "Learning rests upon certain attitudinal qualities which exist in the personal relationship between the facilitator and the learner" ...the core quality being the "realness" of the facilitator;

WHEREAS, he extended the classroom experience into the community through his association with several community based addiction recovery programs that provided students with practicum experiences and expected his students to pursue higher education, he created transition pathways and articulation agreements with Governor's State University for KKC students to seamlessly continue their education;

WHEREAS, he inspired students to support worthy causes using their gifts and talents through

the annual KKC IDOL contest of which proceeds supported the outreach and travel experiences for Social Work Club students;

WHEREAS, Professor Ross, a scholar of African history and culture, adopted the African name of Mangone Diop. He was committed to exposing African American students in particular and all students in general, to the importance of Black America's African heritage through trips to Dakar, Senegal;

WHEREAS, Professor Ross coordinated and contributed to the annual KKC Black History Month celebration where he offered spiritual libations in the Sankofa tradition of honoring the ancestors and held a panel discussion that explored the phenomenon of "Histriosis" – a term he coined to describe the residual psychological impact of the condition of slavery experienced by Africans in America;

WHEREAS, he held stress reduction classes for faculty and staff members based on his desire to create a calm campus culture to heighten productivity and personified the merit and virtue of integrity by being a man of his word and an advocate of holistic health; and

WHEREAS, his wife and dedicated life partner, Vicky Ross and family selflessly supported him in sacrificing family time for student time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kennedy-King College community acknowledges the greatness of Larry. E. Ross as a true educator and humanitarian. His legacy will be continued through his students as well as The Larry E. Ross Scholarship Fund founded in his memory and honor to be awarded to a graduating Addiction Studies student planning to attend Governor's State University and pursue Social Work as their life work.

September 1, 2011 – Kennedy King College