



HR0281

LRB104 13039 ECR 24854 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Robert Jones, Ph.D. on the occasion of concluding his tenure as chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and as vice president of the University of Illinois System; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Jones received a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Fort Valley State College, a master's degree in crop physiology from the University of Georgia, and a doctorate in crop physiology from the University of Missouri, Columbia; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Jones began his academic career as a faculty member at the University of Minnesota in 1978, where he served as an internationally respected authority on plant physiology and a nationally recognized university administrator in a number of leadership roles for more than three decades; he then served as president of the University of Albany before becoming the first African American chancellor of UIUC in 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Jones played an integral role in enrollment at UIUC growing 26%, and he was instrumental in the university launching Illinois Commitment, which promises free tuition for

1 any Illinois resident whose family income is below \$75,000,  
2 establishing the Carle Illinois College of Medicine, which is  
3 the first engineering-based medical school in the world, and  
4 creating the Siebel School of Computing and Data Science and  
5 the Siebel Center for Design, among other accomplishments; he  
6 also led UIUC through the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing  
7 access to students and fostering the development of a  
8 saliva-based COVID-19 test for staff and students to rapidly  
9 receive results; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Jones' plan for UIUC included leading the  
11 university to embark on new strategies to draw together  
12 international scholars and professors, particularly in the  
13 global south, to help bring diverse experiences and viewpoints  
14 to solve the world's greatest challenges, further enhancing  
15 the university's profile as one of the country's premier  
16 research universities and as a magnet for talented students,  
17 faculty, staff, and researchers from across the State and  
18 around the world; and

19 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Jones' leadership, UIUC has created a  
20 new vision as the flagship land-grant university for the 21st  
21 century while honoring and extending its long history of  
22 excellence and maintaining its timeless commitment to serving  
23 the people of Illinois; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Jones is a member of the American Academy of  
2 Arts and Sciences and a fellow of the American Society of  
3 Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America, and he has  
4 served as chair of the Association of American Universities  
5 Board of Directors, the Association of Public and Land-grant  
6 Universities Board of Directors, and the Big Ten Council of  
7 Chancellors and Presidents; therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
9 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
10 we congratulate Robert Jones, Ph.D. on concluding his tenure  
11 as chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
12 (UIUC) and as vice president of the University of Illinois  
13 System after nine years of successful leadership; and be it  
14 further

15           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to Dr. Jones as a symbol of our esteem and respect.