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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate 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

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

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