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LRB104 15839 LAW 29051 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Sheila Quirk-Bailey, DM on the occasion of her retirement as president of Illinois Central College (ICC); and

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WHEREAS, ICC became the first institution in the nation to utilize Pell Grants for incarcerated students, demonstrating Dr. Quirk-Bailey's unwavering commitment to expanding educational opportunity and fostering second chances; and

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WHEREAS, During Dr. Quirk-Bailey's tenure, ICC credentialed more than 1,100 students of poverty through the Workforce Empowerment Initiative, producing strong completion and employment outcomes and setting a national standard for workforce inclusion; and

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WHEREAS, Under Dr. Quirk-Bailey's guidance, ICC secured nearly \$20 million through the Good Jobs Challenge grant, becoming the only community college nationwide and the only institution funded in both rounds to advance the IT Workforce Accelerator program, which offers students industry-recognized credentials at no cost; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Quirk-Bailey was also instrumental in ICC receiving a \$349,397 National Science Foundation (NSF)

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1 Advanced Technological Education grant for its Creating a
2 Workforce Pipeline of STEM Technicians Through Water Analysis
3 program, giving students hands-on experience in original
4 scientific research; and

5 WHEREAS, ICC was recognized nationally as the 2020
6 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Charles
7 Kennedy Equity Award winner, affirming Dr. Quirk-Bailey's
8 lasting impact on student equity and institutional excellence;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Quirk-Bailey's visionary leadership,
11 ICC has received the 2025 Illinois Community College Trustees
12 Association (ICCTA) Equity and Diversity Award, the
13 association's highest statewide honor recognizing leadership
14 and innovation in advancing equity, and was named 2025
15 Achieving the Dream Leader College, becoming one of only 15
16 nationwide recognized for sustained improvements in student
17 success, equity gains for minority students, and reforms that
18 reduce barriers to high-demand careers; and

19 WHEREAS, With Dr. Quirk-Bailey at the helm, ICC's
20 Workforce Sustainability Center has prepared individuals for
21 pre-apprenticeship and entry-level training in 13 high-demand
22 programs, earning ICC recognition as a 2025 Bellwether Award
23 finalist in two categories, Instructional Programs & Services

1 and Workforce Development; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Quirk-Bailey will retire at the end of the
3 year, leaving behind a legacy of innovation, inclusion, and
4 transformation that has strengthened not only ICC but the
5 entire Illinois Community College System; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Sheila
8 Quirk-Bailey, DM on her retirement as president of Illinois
9 Central College (ICC), and we thank her for her outstanding
10 service, leadership, and dedication to the students and
11 communities of ICC as well as higher education and workforce
12 advancement in Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Dr. Quirk-Bailey as an expression of our esteem
15 and respect.