



SR0819

LRB104 22019 ECR 38071 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate Lazaro Lopez, Ed.D, on the occasion of concluding
4 his distinguished career at High School District 214 while
5 highlighting his extraordinary contributions to public
6 education, college and career readiness, and the students and
7 families of Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Lopez's own educational journey reflects the
9 power of public education and community colleges to change
10 lives; after serving in the United States Army, he began his
11 postsecondary path at College of DuPage before earning a
12 Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication and English
13 Education from Illinois State University, a Master of Arts in
14 Educational Leadership and Organizational Change from
15 Roosevelt University, and a Doctor of Education in Leadership
16 in Curriculum and Instruction from Aurora University; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Lopez began his career in High School
18 District 214 as an English teacher at John Hersey High School,
19 and he proceeded to serve as principal of Wheeling High
20 School, associate superintendent for Teaching and Learning,
21 interim superintendent, and executive director of the District
22 214 Education Foundation and Career Pathways; and

1 WHEREAS, As principal of Wheeling High School, Dr. Lopez
2 helped reimagine the high school experience by advancing STEM
3 education, establishing one of the first high school
4 nanotechnology labs in the country, launching early career
5 pathways in manufacturing and health care, expanding
6 dual-credit opportunities, building industry partnerships, and
7 strengthening academic supports for students; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Lopez's leadership at Wheeling High School
9 earned him recognition as the 2010 Dr. Elizabeth Ennis
10 Innovative Educator Award recipient, the 2012 Illinois
11 Principals Association North Cook Region High School Principal
12 of the Year, and the 2013 Illinois Principals Association High
13 School Principal of the Year; and

14 WHEREAS, In his district-wide leadership roles, Dr. Lopez
15 helped establish High School District 214 as a state and
16 national model for career-connected learning, ensuring that
17 students could pair rigorous academics with early college
18 credit, industry credentials, internships, apprenticeships,
19 and authentic work-based learning experiences; and

20 WHEREAS, Through Dr. Lopez's vision and leadership,
21 thousands of High School District 214 graduates have completed
22 secondary education better prepared when making informed
23 choices about college, careers, military service, skilled

1 trades, entrepreneurship, and other meaningful postsecondary
2 pathways; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Lopez's work has strengthened the connection
4 between high schools, colleges, employers, and communities,
5 helping students reduce the cost of postsecondary education,
6 gain career confidence, and pursue pathways that lead to
7 family-sustaining wages and a stronger middle class; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Lopez has also served with distinction as
9 chair of the Illinois Community College Board, a position he
10 held from 2015 to 2025, advancing the mission of Illinois'
11 community colleges and championing educational equity,
12 seamless student transitions, economic mobility, and workforce
13 development; during his tenure, he supported policies and
14 initiatives that expanded dual credit, improved transitions
15 from high school to college, reduced barriers to student
16 success, and aligned education with the workforce needs of
17 Illinois communities; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Lopez has been recognized nationally for his
19 leadership in college and career readiness, career pathways,
20 business partnerships, and work-based learning, and his work
21 has influenced educators, policymakers, and workforce leaders
22 across Illinois and the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Lopez has devoted his career to a simple but
2 powerful promise that every student deserves the guidance,
3 opportunity, and real-world experience needed to discover a
4 future with purpose, dignity, and economic mobility;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Lazaro
8 Lopez, Ed.D. on the conclusion of his distinguished career
9 with High School District 214, marked by his dedicated service
10 to public education and the State of Illinois, and thank him
11 for helping shape the futures of thousands of students while
12 strengthening pathways to the middle class; and be it further

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