



HR0271

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois State University (ISU) President Dr.
3 Larry Dietz has announced he will retire as the University's
4 19th president on June 30, 2021, capping a higher education
5 career surpassing 50 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Dietz earned his bachelor's degree in
7 political science from Southern Illinois University; he earned
8 a master's degree in higher education and student personnel
9 and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Iowa State
10 University; he attended the Institute for Educational
11 Management at Harvard University, a Fulbright International
12 Education Seminar for Administrators in Germany, and the
13 Harvard Management Development Program; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Dietz served as vice chancellor for
15 Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, among other
16 leadership positions, at the University of Missouri-Kansas
17 City and in leadership positions at Iowa State University; he
18 then served as vice chancellor for Student Affairs at Southern
19 Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) for 10 years; he also
20 served as special assistant to the chancellor at SIUC and as a
21 tenured associate professor in educational administration and
22 higher education; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Dietz arrived at ISU in June of 2011 as
2 vice president for Student Affairs and as a tenured associate
3 professor in the Department of Educational Administration and
4 Foundations; he was appointed the University's 19th president
5 in March of 2014; and

6 WHEREAS, During Dr. Larry Dietz's tenure, ISU has enjoyed
7 thriving enrollment and is continually ranked among the top
8 universities in the United States for high graduation and
9 retention rates and low student loan default rates; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Dietz oversaw revisions of ISU's
11 strategic plan and expanded on its core values, which are
12 currently Learning and Scholarship, Diversity and Inclusion,
13 Respect, Collaboration, Individualized Attention, Civic
14 Engagement, and Integrity; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Dietz secured the addition of a degree
16 program in cybersecurity while paving the way for a new
17 engineering program at ISU; his initiatives include opening
18 the University's Center for Civic Engagement and Service
19 Learning, renovating the Bone Student Center, creating a more
20 international campus community, and shepherding plans for the
21 new Multicultural Center; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2016, Dr. Larry Dietz created the Campus

1 Climate Task Force to review diversity, equity, and inclusion
2 needs on campus; he formed the President's Diversity and
3 Inclusion Advisory Council and also hired the University's
4 first assistant to the president for Diversity and Inclusion;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Fundraising under Dr. Larry Dietz's leadership
7 reached record levels with gifts and commitments totaling more
8 than \$180 million through Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for
9 Illinois State University; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Dietz managed ISU through the 793 day
11 Illinois budget impasse from July 1, 2015 to August 31, 2017;
12 he often used the phrase "strong and stable" to define
13 Illinois State's resiliency during those fiscally troubling
14 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Dietz has led ISU as it grapples with
16 the COVID-19 pandemic; he has worked to ensure the health,
17 safety, and well-being of the University community will remain
18 Illinois State's top priority during his final months on
19 campus; and

20 WHEREAS, Currently the longest serving of all Illinois
21 public university presidents, Dr. Larry Dietz will complete
22 his fourth year as the convener of the Illinois public

1 university presidents and chancellors group; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Dietz has served on numerous local
3 not-for-profit agency committees, many times jointly chairing
4 community efforts with his wife, Marlene; their service has
5 included co-chairing events benefiting the American Red Cross,
6 Easter Seals, the March of Dimes, the Illinois Symphony, and
7 Marcfirst; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Dietz's local and regional honors
9 include the McLean County Chamber of Commerce Legacy of
10 Excellence Award and the Outstanding Volunteer Mission Award
11 from the American Heart and Stroke Association; he also earned
12 the Missouri Valley Conference Outstanding Leadership Award as
13 chair of the MVC President's Council; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we congratulate President Dr. Larry Dietz on his retirement
17 from Illinois State University and his more than 50 years of
18 service to the field of higher education, and we wish him the
19 best in all his future endeavors; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Dr. Larry Dietz as a symbol of our esteem and
22 respect.