



HR0179

LRB101 11465 MST 57167 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Dr. G. Gary Grace, Executive Director and Dean of the University Center of Lake County, on his retirement; and

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WHEREAS, In 2001, Dr. Grace became the founding Executive Director and first full-time employee of the University Center of Lake County; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Grace worked with the Center's Governing Board to turn into a reality the vision of the Illinois Board of Higher Education that University Center of Lake County would be an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, a voluntary consortium of public and private universities, working together to provide opportunities for people to complete bachelor's degrees, earn graduate degrees, or pursue advanced professional development, while continuing to live and work in Lake County; and

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WHEREAS, From a partnership of 12 institutions, the University Center of Lake County has grown under Dr. Grace's direction to a partnership of 18 institutions, offering more than 130 programs on an evening, weekend, or online schedule to approximately 1,275 students annually, and congratulating more

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1 than 325 graduates each year; and

2 WHEREAS, From an initial instruction, "You'll want to
3 figure out how to run a payroll", Dr. Grace went on to develop
4 University Center systems and practices for human resources,
5 purchasing, accounts payable and receivable, room scheduling,
6 needs assessment, outreach and government relations, board
7 governance, capital construction, facility operations, and,
8 most of all, collaboration with member institutions and local
9 partners; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Grace worked closely with the College of Lake
11 County to establish a small University Center facility in
12 downtown Waukegan, which opened in 2004; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Grace also worked closely with the Illinois
14 Board of Higher Education, the Capital Development Board, and
15 the Governing Board of the University Center and with
16 bipartisan support from Lake County's state, county, and
17 federal legislators to build a 91,146 square foot facility on
18 the Grayslake campus of the College of Lake County on land
19 generously donated by the college; the building opened in 2005
20 and won the Thomas H. Madigan Award for Outstanding New
21 Construction through the CDB's "Pride in Partnership" awards
22 program (2006) and the Gold Award in the Illinois/Indiana
23 Masonry Council's "Excellence in Masonry" competition (2007);

1 and

2 WHEREAS, During Dr. Grace's tenure leading the University
3 Center of Lake County, it received the Educational Leadership
4 Award from the Coalicion Unidos de Lake County in 2009, the
5 Reflejos Reflecting Excellence Award for service to the Latino
6 community in 2012, and the Innovative Initiative Award for its
7 "First Generation College Outreach Program" from the Illinois
8 Council on Continuing Higher Education in 2017; Dr. Grace
9 himself received a 2007 Forefronts award from the Lake County
10 Journal in appreciation of his overall commitment to the
11 excellence of the Lake County community; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Grace's leadership of the University Center of
13 Lake County has capped a distinguished career in higher
14 education administration, including service as the Vice
15 Chancellor for Student Affairs at the University of
16 Missouri-St. Louis, as the Assistant Chancellor for Student
17 Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, as the Vice
18 President for Student Development at Morehead State
19 University, as Director of Residence Life at Miami University,
20 and as Assistant to the Vice President for University Relations
21 at Florida State University; his career began right here in
22 Illinois as Director of Residential Programs and Counseling
23 Services at Illinois Wesleyan University; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Grace has contributed to the Lake County
2 region through volunteer service to the Health Professions
3 Education Consortium, the Clara Abbott Foundation, Lake County
4 Partners, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, and Prince of Peace
5 parish in Lake Villa; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate Dr. G. Gary Grace on his retirement from the
9 University Center of Lake County, and we wish him success and
10 good health in the future; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Dr. Grace as a symbol of our respect and esteem.