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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Columbia College Chicago and their retail team members for winning the 2025 National Retail Federation (NRF) Foundation University Challenge; and

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WHEREAS, The NRF Foundation University Challenge is a prestigious retail competition designed for undergraduate students across various majors; teams of undergraduate students develop and pitch innovative retail strategies to address specific retail challenges, and the winning team receives a \$30,000 tuition scholarship; and

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WHEREAS, Columbia College Chicago has demonstrated exceptional dedication to retail education and innovation; and

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WHEREAS, The members of the Columbia College Chicago retail team include Hazel Avery, Graeme Cote, Michelle Flores, and Natilee Strey, who have all demonstrated outstanding creativity, business acumen, and teamwork; and

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WHEREAS, These students have successfully applied their classroom knowledge to real-world retail challenges, showcasing the quality of education provided by Columbia College Chicago; and

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1           WHEREAS, The team's victory in the 2025 NRF Foundation  
2 University Challenge represents a significant achievement in  
3 this prestigious national retail competition; and

4           WHEREAS, This accomplishment brings honor and recognition  
5 to Columbia College Chicago, its students, its retail  
6 education program, and the Illinois retail community;  
7 therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate  
10 Columbia College of Chicago and their retail team for winning  
11 the 2025 National Retail Federation (NRF) Foundation  
12 University Challenge; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That we commend Columbia College Chicago for  
14 fostering an environment of excellence in retail education and  
15 innovation, and we commend the dedication and expertise of the  
16 faculty and staff who supported and guided these students to  
17 success; and be it further

18           RESOLVED, That we encourage continued support for programs  
19 that bridge academic learning with real-world industry  
20 challenges and fuel the creative economy; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
2 presented to Columbia College Chicago and the winning retail  
3 team members as a symbol of our admiration and appreciation  
4 for their outstanding achievement.