



HR0447

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Illinois House of Representatives wishes to honor the Reverend Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., Ed.D. for his leadership and many achievements at DePaul University and congratulate him on his outstanding service to the University and the State of Illinois on the occasion of his retirement as President of University; and

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WHEREAS, On July 15, 2004, Father Dennis H. Holtschneider became the 11th President of DePaul University, the nation's largest Catholic university and the largest private university in the Midwest; and

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WHEREAS, Fr. Holtschneider is a professor of education at DePaul and a faculty member in the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Management Development Program where he teaches strategy, and where, during the fall 2014 semester, he served as Visiting Scholar and President-in-Residence; he also is a faculty member at Boston College's Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education; and

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WHEREAS, Fr. Holtschneider led two national studies examining trends in governance and leadership in American Catholic colleges and universities; he is the author of one book and numerous articles on U.S. higher education and

1 Catholic higher education, as well as a frequent consultant and
2 speaker on these topics; and

3 WHEREAS, Fr. Holtschneider has been honored widely for his
4 work on a variety of issues, including being listed as one of
5 Diversity MBA Magazine's Top 100 under 50 Diverse Executive
6 Leaders; he received the ACE Council of Fellows Mentor Award in
7 2015, recognizing his guidance in preparing the next generation
8 of academic leaders in higher education; and

9 WHEREAS, Fr. Holtschneider holds honorary doctoral degrees
10 from Adamson University, Manila; College of St. Elizabeth, New
11 Jersey; Marywood University, Pennsylvania; Niagara University,
12 New York; Soka University, Tokyo; St. Thomas Aquinas College,
13 New York; and received the Vincentian Charism Award from All
14 Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2011, Fr. Holtschneider was honored by the
16 Archdiocese of Chicago with its "Strangers No Longer Award" for
17 his leadership on comprehensive immigration reform; and

18 WHEREAS, Fr. Holtschneider was appointed to the P-20
19 Council of the State of Illinois in 2009 and served as a
20 council member under Governor Patrick Quinn and Governor Bruce
21 Rauner; and

1 WHEREAS, Fr. Holtschneider led DePaul through two
2 successful strategic plans that saw the broadening of DePaul's
3 national applications, the rise in its graduation and retention
4 rates, and the development of 178 new programs including the
5 creation of new colleges and schools of Science and Health,
6 Communication, Cinematic Arts, Hospitality Leadership, and
7 Digital Design; and

8 WHEREAS, Fr. Holtschneider presided over the physical
9 transformation of DePaul University, opening new facilities
10 including the McGowan South Chemistry Building, Arts & Letters
11 Hall, the new College of Education building, an Art Museum, the
12 Theatre School and the acquisition of the Richard M. and Maggie
13 C. Daley Building; construction is also underway on a new home
14 for the School of Music and, in partnership with the
15 Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, the Wintrust Arena
16 will open in November of 2017, and will become the new home of
17 DePaul Blue Demon basketball; and

18 WHEREAS, To sustain the university's founding commitment
19 to first-generation students, approximately \$460 million in
20 philanthropic support has been raised during Father
21 Holtschneider's tenure; this includes completion of the "Many
22 Dreams, One Mission" capital campaign, which raised \$333
23 million, the largest portion of which was allocated for student
24 scholarships to ensure access to high quality education for

1 future generations of DePaul students; and

2 WHEREAS, U.S. News and World report noticed DePaul's
3 strategic redesign in 2015-16, naming DePaul as among the
4 nation's "Most Innovative Universities"; The Princeton Review
5 ranked DePaul University students as among the happiest
6 students in the country according to a 2014 survey and DePaul
7 has been recognized by a variety of national groups for its
8 diversity, its record of welcoming transfer students, its
9 technology, arts, and communications; and

10 WHEREAS, On January 12, 2017, Ascension Healthcare, a \$22
11 billion health care organization based in St. Louis, Missouri,
12 announced that Fr. Holtschneider will step down as its board
13 chairman to become its executive vice president and chief
14 operating officer; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
17 recognize and honor the many ways in which Fr. Holtschneider's
18 leadership and strategic vision transformed DePaul University
19 and will continue to contribute to the academic and career
20 success of students for years to come; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we thank Fr. Holtschneider for his
22 dedication to education and service to his community and wish

1 him the best in all his future endeavors; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to Fr. Holtschneider as a symbol of our esteem and
4 respect.