



HR1217

LRB100 23495 ALS 42533 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Dr. John Avendano on the
4 occasion of his retirement as president of Kankakee Community
5 College; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Avendano became Kankakee Community College's
7 sixth president on July 1, 2009; during his time at Kankakee
8 Community College, he led the college through a two-year state
9 budget impasse, added new academic programs, successfully
10 implemented two strategic plans, and opened campus facilities;
11 Kankakee Community College also celebrated two national
12 championships and the college's 50th anniversary during his
13 tenure; and

14 WHEREAS, During the state budget impasse, Dr. Avendano
15 fought for Monetary Assistance Program (MAP) funding for
16 students and appropriations for community colleges,
17 representing Kankakee Community College and Illinois Community
18 Colleges in conversations with State legislators; on campus,
19 his leadership enabled the redesign of foundational
20 coursework, the strengthening of collaborations with area
21 school districts, the business community, and local industry,
22 and the creation of new programs, including Millwright and
23 Manufacturing Technology and an apprenticeship program that

1 created paths to employment; and

2 WHEREAS, Under the guidance of Dr. Avendano, the college
3 expanded its community access and established the Miner South
4 Extension Center in Watseka and the Manufacturing and
5 Industrial Technology Center in Kankakee; in 2014, Kankakee
6 Community College's North Extension Center in Bradley opened
7 and became Kankakee County's first LEED Gold Certified
8 building; the Advanced Technology Education Center on the
9 Riverfront Campus, which is currently under construction, is
10 also designed to meet LEED Gold Standards; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Avendano serves on boards for state and
12 community organizations, including the Illinois Community
13 College Council of Presidents, the Grundy Livingston Kankakee
14 Workforce Board, the Riverside Medical Center Board of
15 Directors, and the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County, where
16 he served as chairman of the board for the past two years; he
17 was named one of Waubonsee Community College's Fab 40 Alumni,
18 inducted into the Waubonsee Community College Athletic Hall of
19 Fame, inducted into the Illinois State University College of
20 Education Hall of Fame, and inducted into the Skyway Conference
21 Hall of Fame; he received the Phi Theta Kappa Shirley B. Gordon
22 Award for Distinction and the Illinois Community College
23 Trustees Association Advocacy Award; and

1 WHEREAS, A former community college basketball player and
2 coach, Dr. Avendano is proud of the Kankakee Community College
3 Cavaliers and their accomplishments at the regional and
4 national levels; the Cavaliers baseball and softball teams both
5 won national titles in 2017 and 2015 respectively, and in the
6 past nine years, Kankakee Community College's athletic teams
7 have won 22 regional titles and recognized 30 All-Americans and
8 44 Academic All-Americans; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 congratulate Dr. John Avendano on the occasion of his
12 retirement, and we recognize his commitment to the community
13 and to the State of Illinois; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Dr. Avendano as an expression of our esteem and
16 respect.