



HR0921

LRB102 28533 MST 40410 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. Christine J. Sobek on her retirement as president of Waubonsee Community College after 21 years of service; and

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WHEREAS, Since Dr. Sobek began her role as president on July 1, 2001, Waubonsee Community College has served 189,429 students earning 2,829,005 credit hours; through her vision and steadfast leadership, the college has grown in stature locally and regionally across four permanent campuses located in the 624-square-mile college district; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Sobek's efforts transformed and strengthened the college by achieving its infrastructure growth outlined in the 2020 College Master Plan five years earlier than projected and under budget; and

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WHEREAS, Under Dr. Sobek's stewardship, the college saw its most recent significant expansion with the construction of five new buildings on the college's Sugar Grove Campus, the opening of the new Aurora Downtown Campus location, and the opening of the new Plano Campus; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Sobek has long championed the college's

1 commitment to student equity and success; and

2 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Sobek's leadership, Waubonsee was one  
3 of the first community colleges in Illinois to obtain the  
4 Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) designation; and

5 WHEREAS, The college re-engineered what student success  
6 means for its more than 30% Latinx students and many  
7 first-generation students, by having candid conversations  
8 around access, retention, and graduation completion; these  
9 efforts resulted in the college securing three Title V grants  
10 totaling almost \$9 million received since 2010; Waubonsee  
11 Community College has used this funding to drive necessary  
12 student programming, such as the opening of a Latinx Resource  
13 Center (LRC), located at the Aurora Downtown Campus; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Sobek has led highly  
15 comprehensive funding initiatives that increased funding for  
16 student scholarships by more than 300 percent in college  
17 history; and

18 WHEREAS, During disruptions brought by conditions of the  
19 pandemic, Dr. Sobek also worked with numerous stakeholders at  
20 the college to assure students could still complete their  
21 academic goals; the college created one-time, college-funded  
22 scholarships and grants in the amount of \$2.4 million for

1 students; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Sobek believes in enthusiastically giving  
3 back to the community and is active within the Waubonsee  
4 community; she has served on the City of Aurora Education  
5 Commission, the Rush-Copley Medical Center Board of Directors,  
6 the Marmion Academy Board of Trustees, the Invest Aurora Board  
7 of Directors, the Mutual Ground Advisory Board, the  
8 Conservation Foundation Leadership Board, and many more  
9 regional and statewide advisory groups; and

10 WHEREAS, In recognition of Dr. Sobek's 21 years of  
11 distinguished service, commitment, leadership, and  
12 contributions as president of the college, the Waubonsee  
13 Community College Board of Trustees also approved the  
14 bestowing of the honorary title of president emeritus upon her  
15 retirement; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Sobek earned a doctoral degree from Northern  
17 Illinois University, a master's degree from Michigan State  
18 University, and a bachelor's degree from Purdue University  
19 with Highest Distinction; she is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and  
20 an honorary member of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor  
21 Society; she also completed Harvard University's Seminar for  
22 Experienced Presidents; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Sobek has been the recipient of many honors,  
2 including being selected as one of Chicago's Notable Women in  
3 Education sponsored by Crain Chicago's Business, the  
4 Outstanding Alumni Award from Northern Illinois University,  
5 the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction by Phi Theta Kappa  
6 International Honor Society, an Influential Women in Business  
7 award sponsored by The Business Ledger, the Michigan State  
8 University College of Education Alumni Association  
9 Distinguished Alumni Award, a Quad County Urban League  
10 Lifetime Achievement Award, and the National Council of  
11 Marketing and Public Relations District 3 Pacesetter of the  
12 Year Award; and

13           WHEREAS, Dr. Sobek's transformational leadership at  
14 Waubensee Community College has profoundly impacted countless  
15 lives across the community; therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18 we congratulate Dr. Christine J. Sobek on her retirement,  
19 commend her dedication, service, and enormous contribution as  
20 president of Waubensee Community College, and wish her well in  
21 all of her future endeavors; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
23 presented to Dr. Sobek as a symbol of our respect and esteem.