



HR1145

LRB098 21431 MST 59895 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Dr. Jack Becherer on his
4 retirement as President of Rock Valley College (RVC) in
5 November of 2013; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Jack Becherer has served as president of Rock
7 Valley College since November 2004; during his tenure, the
8 college has opened a Learning and Opportunity Center in
9 Downtown Rockford, built a state-of-the-art Science and
10 Mathematics building, named for the past president, Dr. Karl
11 Jacobs, and restored the Educational Resource Center and the
12 Physical Education Center; also, the college has received a
13 \$36,000,000 allocation - one of the largest capital allocations
14 to a community college in the State of Illinois - to build a
15 performance studio and classrooms for art, music, and theater
16 and to restore the 2 existing original classroom buildings; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Becherer has been committed to bringing the
18 resources of the college to address community challenges; he
19 has initiated a Running Start program for high achieving high
20 school juniors and seniors, enabling these students to take
21 college courses that meet high school requirements, leading to
22 the completion of high school graduation and an associate
23 degree at the same time; in addition, he has been an advocate

1 of RVC's preparation of engineers and manufacturing careers as
2 one means to increase the economic vitality of the Rock River
3 Region; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Becherer has more than 35 years of experience
5 in community colleges, including faculty positions in Virginia
6 and Missouri, and administrative positions in Missouri and
7 Illinois; prior to becoming Rock Valley College's fifth
8 president, he was president of Wenatchee Valley College in the
9 state of Washington; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Becherer has been very active in the greater
11 Rockford community; he serves on the board of directors for
12 Rockford Health System, the Rockford Area Economic Development
13 Council, the Winnebago, Boone, and Stephenson Counties
14 Workforce Investment Board, and the Golden Apple Foundation;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Becherer and his wife, Janna, enjoy the
17 greater Rockford community, especially the amazing
18 recreational and outdoor activities; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we congratulate Dr. Jack Becherer on his retirement as
22 President of Rock Valley College in November of 2013, 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 Dr. Becherer as an expression of our esteem and
4 respect.