

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ralf Ludwig upon the occasion of his designation as a 2013 SUNY New Paltz School of Business Hall of Fame inductee as Business Person of the Year, on May 9, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals who have distinguished themselves through their exemplary careers, accomplishments, and purposeful lives of service to their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ralf Ludwig upon the occasion of his designation as a 2013 SUNY New Paltz School of Business Hall of Fame inductee as Business Person of the Year; and

WHEREAS, The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 9, 2013, at the Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston, New York; and

WHEREAS, A man of singular distinction, Ralf Ludwig has continually demonstrated extreme competence, extraordinary intelligence and diligent leadership in his unwavering service to both his community and profession and consequently has been selected for this most prestigious honor; and

WHEREAS, Ralf Ludwig is the CEO and a principal of Wolf-tec, Inc., a manufacturer of industrial meat processing equipment in Kingston, New York; and

WHEREAS, Wolf-tec began as an importer of industrial meat processing equipment and a sales and service company; it was founded in 1977, in the garage of the family home, by Ralf Ludwig's father, Wolfgang Ludwig, ten years after the family had immigrated to the United States from Germany; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, Ralf Ludwig returned to Germany to complete an apprenticeship in machine building; he received his degree in 1984 and worked at various equipment manufacturers in the German meat industry before returning home to a sales position in the family business; and

WHEREAS, At that time Wolf-tec employed fewer than 10 people and sold equipment manufactured by European companies to the American meat processing industry; however, in the early 1990's, Ralf Ludwig reorganized the company and began to expand its services; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Ralf Ludwig started designing and manufacturing Wolf-tec's own line of equipment which was launched in 1994; the market responded well and, in 1997, Wolf-tec expanded from Highland to Kingston to increase manufacturing capacity, and the company emerged as a steady manufacturing employer in Ulster County; for the past 11 years, Hormel has awarded Wolf-tec its "Spirit of Excellence" Award; and

WHEREAS, Today, Wolf-tec is recognized as a global leader in the meat processing industry, with business ventures in South America, Australia and parts of Europe, and many patents; the company sets industry standards and brings innovation and food safety to the forefront of one of the world's oldest industries; and

WHEREAS, Having established Wolf-tec as a technology leader, Ralf Ludwig continues to look ahead to the needs of the industry and has focused his company on the emerging importance of U.S. manufacturing and the competitive advantage that the advancing technologies of automation can bring to the Hudson Valley; and

WHEREAS, He credits his entrepreneurial spirit to his father, who made the bold move from Germany to America with his wife and two small sons, unfamiliar with American culture, not yet able to speak English, but committed to success; this pioneering attitude drives Ralf Ludwig every day; and

WHEREAS, Ralf Ludwig has been called upon to contribute his time and

talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Carrying the spirit of innovation and high standards into the community, Ralf Ludwig actively supports SUNY Delhi's efforts to develop curricula that will meet the needs of a high tech-automation manufacturing world; and

WHEREAS, Ralf Ludwig has also been involved with youth; he was a co-founding coach of the Rondout Valley Youth Football League, as well as an active supporter of Rondout Valley High School's program to increase awareness of science and technology among high school students; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Annette, and their five children, Natasha, Alex, Jean Luc, Tomas and Gabriella, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ralf Ludwig upon the occasion of his designation as a 2013 SUNY New Paltz School of Business Hall of Fame inductee as Business Person of the Year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ralf Ludwig.