

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Abubakar Ali upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 Bruce R. James Distinguished Service Award by the Rochester Institute of Technology

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Abubakar Ali has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Abubakar Ali upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 Bruce R. James Distinguished Service Award by the Rochester Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, Abubakar Ali has overcome significant obstacles to come to Rochester and attend the Rochester Institute of Technology, traveling from his native Somalia through Kenya and Lansing, Michigan, not knowing English or sign language when arriving in the United States; and

WHEREAS, While in Somalia, Abubakar Ali helped found and is a past president of the Somalia National Association of the Deaf; and

WHEREAS, Abubakar Ali worked as an advocate for the deaf; and

WHEREAS, On campus, Abubakar Ali serves as a Senator in the RIT Student Government and started an organization entitled Make a Friend with the mission to encourage outreach between deaf and hearing students; and

WHEREAS, Abubakar Ali has involved himself in this community, serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer, interning with the Center for Youth of Rochester where he works with homeless young people and volunteering at St. Mary's Place helping to teach English to the children of refugees; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Abubakar Ali has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Abubakar Ali upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 Bruce R. James Distinguished Service Award by the Rochester Institute of Technology, and to wish him continued success in his studies at RIT; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Abubakar Ali.