

Senate Resolution No. 788

BY: Senator KENNEDY

HONORING Dr. Hal Payne upon the occasion of his retirement after 27 years of distinguished service to Buffalo State College

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great State; and

WHEREAS, The result of many individual efforts, the excellence and success of Buffalo State College is due in large part to the efforts of Dr. Hal Payne; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Hal Payne upon the occasion of his retirement after 27 years of distinguished service to Buffalo State College; he will officially retire from the esteemed position of Vice President of Student Affairs on May 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, A true inspiration and mentor, Dr. Hal Payne has served Buffalo State College for nearly three decades; and

WHEREAS, After receiving a bachelor's degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1966, Hal Payne went on to earn a Juris Doctor degree from Cleveland State University in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Early in his career, Dr. Hal Payne served as a Senior Associate for the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C., and as Administrative Assistant to a United State Representative before being named the first President of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), a Washington-based education association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hal Payne began his illustrious tenure with Buffalo State College as Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs in February of 1990; he was promoted to Vice President of Student Affairs in May of the following year; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Dr. Hal Payne has been instrumental in the growth of facilities and programs which provide services to the students; one of his first accomplishments was the commissioning of a Blue Ribbon Committee at Buffalo State College; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Hal Payne spearheaded renovations to many of the school's buildings including renovations done to the Moore Complex, Campbell Student Union, the press box at Coyer Field, and turning the Houston Gymnasium into a modern fitness center; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering dedication to our nation's youth, Dr. Hal Payne has spent his life and career promoting such TRiO programs as Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services,

as well as in the educational development of disadvantaged youth; and

WHEREAS, Active within the community, Dr. Hal Payne has supported numerous local programs including Read to Succeed, Just Buffalo Literary Center and the Hillside Family Foundation; he has also served as the Commissioner for the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority, which assists residents in Buffalo in maintaining a higher quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hal Payne was recognized by the United States House of Representatives in 2013, as having made a direct impact on the sake of our country's education policy; he was also appointed by New York State Governor Cuomo to serve on the NYS Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hal Payne is the proud recipient of the 2016 Higher Education Civic Engagement Award by the Washington Center, and Mayor Byron Brown proclaimed February 26, 2014, as Hal Payne Day in the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, A caring, competent and committed leader, Dr. Hal Payne's character and integrity are the hallmarks of his life and work as an educational leader, a community volunteer and as a person; and

WHEREAS, The Buffalo community is indeed fortunate and blessed to have had such a dedicated and respected educational leader; his wisdom and contributions to Buffalo State College have truly made a difference in the lives of those lucky enough to have worked with him; and

WHEREAS, A significant contributor to education in New York State, Dr. Hal Payne has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unrelenting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at Buffalo State College for the benefit of its faculty and students, as well as for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, In completing his service as Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Hal Payne leaves behind more than mere bricks and mortar; he leaves behind a legacy to the students of Buffalo State College and to the residents of the Buffalo community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Hal Payne upon the occasion of his retirement, and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Hal Payne.