

BY: Senator GRIFFO

CONGRATULATING Kevin Grimmer upon the occasion of his retirement after 37 years of dedicated service to SUNY Polytechnic Institute

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality of life in the communities across this great State of New York is enriched by the diligence and compassionate commitment of those individuals whose singular purpose is the care and welfare of our student athletes; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Kevin Grimmer upon the occasion of his retirement after 37 years of distinguished service to SUNY Polytechnic Institute; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Grimmer served SUNY Polytechnic Institute in a dual role as both the Athletic Director and Head Coach of the men's basketball team prior to stepping back from coaching duties in 2014; he will officially retire in July of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Grimmer began his illustrious career at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in 1985; he served as the Athletic Director for 21 years after a 15-year stint as Assistant Athletic Director, and was the basketball coach for 18 years after serving as an assistant coach for five years; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, which traversed nearly four decades, Kevin Grimmer was instrumental in the tremendous growth and success of the school's athletic program, including the \$20 million expansion of the SUNY Poly sports complex, which resulted in the new Wildcat Field House, a turf field with lights, a baseball field and updated softball field; and

WHEREAS, During his long and distinguished career at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Kevin Grimmer also coached the women's basketball team for six seasons, taking a program which had a 39-118 record since its inception, to a 78-69 record and the school's first-ever State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Championship Tournament appearance; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, Kevin Grimmer came back to the men's basketball program, piloting it to six conference championship berths and three Eastern College Athletic Conference championship tournaments; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Grimmer has compiled 294 wins for Wildcat Basketball and has led both teams to postseason appearances in seven SUNYAC Tournaments and three Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championship Tournaments; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Kevin Grimmer, SUNY

Polytechnic Institute moved to the North East Atlantic Conference in 2008, and won the NEAC President's Cup for best overall sports program in three consecutive years; his 2008-09 team won the college's first conference championship and became the first to qualify for an NCAA championship berth; and

WHEREAS, During his finest season ever in 2009-10, Kevin Grimmer led the team to its second straight North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) Championship and its second consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament, where the team advanced to the Sweet 16; he guided the team to a program-best record of 26-5 and was rewarded with four Coach of the Year awards; he also received the 2012 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Professional Excellence for his longtime commitment to SUNY Poly as an athletics administrator and coach; and

WHEREAS, In addition to coaching both SUNY Poly basketball teams, this extraordinary man established the women's volleyball program and was its coach for six years; he also served as the school's Sports Information Director for 14 years; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Kevin Grimmer is the former president and executive committee member of SUNYAC; he has also served as the Chair of the Board of Athletic Directors for the NEAC as well as its executive committee; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Kevin Grimmer was a standout basketball player for Hamilton College, where he graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and was named an NCAA Division III All-American; upon the completion of his studies, he continued his basketball career playing professionally overseas for the English National Basketball Association; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Grimmer's athletic accomplishments have landed him in both the Greater Utica Area Sports Hall of Fame and the Notre Dame High School Juggler Hall of Fame; additionally, his Hamilton College jersey was raised to the rafters of the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House in a ceremony celebrating Continental All-Americans; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Sheila, and their three children, Nick, Megan and Alex, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Grimmer is a consummate example of class and professionalism; his can-do demeanor, unwavering commitment to his student-athletes, and collaborative pursuit of excellence both on and off the field is the backbone of SUNY Poly's outstanding athletic program; he has served as a role model for thousands of NCAA student-athletes, and his legacy will be one of building a culture of character and integrity; and

WHEREAS, In completing his service as Athletic Director, Kevin Grimmer leaves behind more than mere bricks and mortar; he leaves behind a legacy to the student-athletes of SUNY Polytechnic Institute, both

past and present, and to the residents of the community-at-large; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Kevin Grimmer upon the occasion of his retirement after 37 years of distinguished service to SUNY Polytechnic Institute, and to wish him well in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kevin Grimmer.