

BY: M. of A. Burdick

COMMEMORATING the 10th Anniversary of Latino U
College Access

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations of the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Latino U College Access; and

WHEREAS, Latino U College Access (LUCA) is a nonprofit organization that transforms lives by making college dreams a reality for low-income, first-generation, Latino youth; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, Latino U College Access empowers students on their journeys to and through college so they can fulfill their remarkable potential; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this vital organization guides students, who have demonstrated academic aptitude, through individualized coaching and culturally relevant programming to ensure they enroll in schools that meet their financial and academic needs; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, only one out of 10 first-generation college students earn a four-year degree; at LUCA, 99 percent of Scholars remain on track to graduate or have graduated; and

WHEREAS, LUCA was founded in 2012 by Shirley Acevedo Buontempo to address the inequity first-generation Latino students face while pursuing their college dreams; Shirley experienced the transformative power of education firsthand; born in Puerto Rico, she moved to the Bronx when she was ten years old; after navigating the school system and learning English, she was the first in her family to graduate from college; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 10-year history, Latino U College Access has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of Latino U College Access is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated staff and Board of Directors, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to Latino U College

Access; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Latino U College Access; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Shirley Acevedo Buontempo, Founder, Latino U College Access.