

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lisa Marsh Ryerson upon the occasion of her retirement as President of Wells College after many years of dedicated service on behalf of higher education

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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lisa Marsh Ryerson upon the occasion of her retirement as President of Wells College after many years of dedicated service of behalf of higher education; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at a Board of Trustees hosted gala, at the College, to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1868 as a women's college by Henry Wells, President of Wells Fargo and American Express Companies, Wells College is a nationally recognized private coeducational liberal arts college located in beautiful Aurora, New York, on the shore of Cayuga Lake; it is known for small class sizes, strong academic majors, and extensive and integrated hands-on learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Wells College is to teach its students to think critically, reason wisely, and act humanely as they cultivate meaningful lives; the College is exceptional in its commitment to providing access to higher education; its academic programs allow students substantial freedom to create individually unique educational entrepreneurships; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Marsh Ryerson has served as Wells College President since February 1995; she is the College's 17th President and the first alumna to hold the position; and

WHEREAS, The retirement of Lisa Marsh Ryerson as President of Wells College marks the culmination of a distinguished 28 year professional career at Wells; after graduating in 1981, she served as the College's assistant director of admissions and associate dean of students before completing her master's degree at the State University of New York at Cortland; and

WHEREAS, After four years of teaching in the public schools, Lisa Marsh Ryerson returned to Wells College in 1991 to serve as dean of students, executive vice president and acting President prior to being appointed President in 1995; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure as the President of Wells College, Lisa Marsh Ryerson led the College's effort that resulted in substantial improvements to the campus, the revitalization of commercial properties in the village of Aurora, a successful transition to coeducation, the launch of an endowed Center for Business and Entrepreneurship, and expanded programs and opportunities for students; and

WHEREAS, In addition, during the presidency of Lisa Marsh Ryerson, Wells College had a 32% increase in overall enrollment, received nine of the largest gifts in the College's history and enjoyed consistently high national rankings; and

WHEREAS, President Lisa Marsh Ryerson has strengthened the national profile of Wells College through her active participation in numerous state and national organizations; including serving as board chair for the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities of New York State, the Women's College Coalition, and the Public Leadership Education Network; her executive committee affiliations have included: the Council of Independent Colleges; the Middle States Commission on Higher Education; and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, for whom she chaired their accountability committee; in

addition, she is currently serving on the NCAA Division III President's Council and as vice-chair of the North Eastern Athletic Conference President's Council; and

WHEREAS, Active in the community, Lisa Marsh Ryerson has built important local and regional partnerships through her service, including as advisory board chair for the Finger Lakes Cultural and Natural History Museum; trustee of Auburn Community Hospital; on the leadership council of the Cayuga Fund of the Community Foundation of CNY; on the Central New York Advisory Board of HSBC Bank; director of the Metropolitan Development Association; on the executive committee of the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce; vice-president of the board of Seven Lakes Girl Scout Council; and a founding board member of Peachtown Elementary School in Aurora; and

WHEREAS, Among her numerous awards, Lisa Marsh Ryerson has received recognition by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, Girls Inc. of Central New York, and the Public Relations Society of America; in 2010, the State University of New York awarded her an honorary doctorate degree at Cortland College's commencement ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Marsh Ryerson is the cherished daughter of Murray and Carol Marsh; with her throughout have been her loving husband, George E. Farenthold, and four wonderful daughters, Annie Ryerson, Carol Ryerson, Julie Ryerson, and Rachel Farenthold, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, As President of Wells College, Lisa Marsh Ryerson has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at the College for the benefit of its faculty and students, as well as for the entire community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend and honor Lisa Marsh Ryerson upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service as President of Wells College; and for her significant contributions to education in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lisa Marsh Ryerson.