Senate Resolution No. 953

BY: Senator MAYER

HONORING Dr. Milagros Pena upon the occasion of her retirement after five years of distinguished service to SUNY Purchase

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Milagros Pena upon the occasion of her retirement after five years of distinguished service to SUNY Purchase; she will be celebrated with a farewell ceremony on May 13, 2025; and

WHEREAS, For the past five years, Dr. Milagros "Milly" Pena rendered faithful, conscientious, and valuable service to SUNY Purchase, earning the admiration, esteem, and affection of her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, As the sixth president of the State University of New York at Purchase and the first Latina president in the SUNY system, Dr. Milagros Pena was able to share the importance of liberal arts education and the power of fostering a culture of inclusivity; and

WHEREAS, An embodiment of Purchase College's motto, "Think Wide Open," Dr. Milagros Pena has found success in her professional life by embracing the limitless possibilities that education can provide; she is the first individual in her family to receive a high school diploma, and ultimately, multiple higher education degrees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Milagros Pena holds a master's and a doctorate degree in sociology from SUNY Stony Brook; her continued research, which explores topics ranging from grassroots activism to the intersection of religion and Latinx identity, demonstrates her commitment to understanding and addressing pressing social issues, while simultaneously acting as a guide for her steadfast, fair, and inclusive leadership; and

WHEREAS, An interdisciplinary scholar by training, Dr. Milagros Pena's academic work bridges sociology, anthropology, race and ethnic studies, gender and women's studies, and other important disciplines, providing a vast and informed educational foundation with which she proudly led SUNY Purchase; and

WHEREAS, Through publications, projects, and leadership within professional organizations, Dr. Milagros Pena has always championed benefits of education, diversity, and social justice, positioning Purchase College as an institution of excellence and opportunity for all students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Milagros Pena is also the author or co-author of three

books and over forty journal articles, book chapters, and reports; this able leader is also the past chair of the American Sociological Association's Latino/a Section and previously served on the Executive

Councils of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and the American Sociological Association's Religion Section; and

WHEREAS, For her courageous leadership, captivating writing, and dedicated research, Dr. Milagros Pena is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including: her selection by the Riverside Chamber of Commerce for City of Riverside Leadership in 2018, the 2008 Distinguished Book Award from the Latino/a Section of the American Sociological Association, and the Fulbright-Hays/Garcia-Robles Mexico Research Scholar Award from 1994-1995; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as President, Dr. Milagros Pena served with loyalty, honor and distinction, and was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems in her official acts; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Milagros Pena upon the occasion of her retirement after five years of distinguished service to SUNY Purchase; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Milagros Pena.