

Assembly Resolution No. 1322

BY: M. of A. Conrad

HONORING Dr. Bonita Durand upon the occasion of her retirement after 25 years of distinguished service to Buffalo State University

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Bonita Durand upon the occasion of her retirement after 25 years of distinguished service to Buffalo State University; and

WHEREAS, For the past 25 years, Dr. Bonita Durand rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to Buffalo State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonita Durand earned a Bachelor of Arts in business administration and curriculum development from the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio, a Master of Science in applied public affairs from the University at Buffalo, and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University at Buffalo with a concentration in higher education administration and a focus on institutional advancement; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Dr. Bonita Durand received a certification in educational management and leadership from the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as president and her many roles in the university, Dr. Bonita Durand served with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, In her time at Buffalo State University, Dr. Bonita Durand served as chief of staff and secretary to the Buffalo State College Council under five presidents; she was a graduate faculty member in the university's Higher Education Administration Department, where she taught courses on the history of American higher education, and strategic planning and finance in higher education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonita Durand originally retired in 2018, after 22 years of service to Buffalo State University, but she was appointed officer in charge of Buffalo State University by State University of New York Chancellor John B. King Jr. on May 31, 2023, before her official confirmation as president by the SUNY Board of Trustees on June 6, 2023; and

WHEREAS, On April 23, 2026, Dr. Bonita Durand was officially named the 10th President of Buffalo State University until her retirement on June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, In her official acts, Dr. Bonita Durand was governed by a

keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonita Durand provided leadership to countless committees and working groups at Buffalo State, including the Middle States accreditation steering committee, the presidential inauguration support committees, the facilities master planning committee, and the presidential search advisory committees; she has served as the faculty advisor for the collegiate chapter of the National Council of Negro Women Inc. and the campus advisor for the Gamma Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.; and

WHEREAS, An active member of the Western New York Community, Dr. Bonita Durand has dedicated her time to numerous organizations across the city and region; she was secretary for the City of Buffalo Citizens Advisory Commission on Reapportionment in 2011, a member of the mayor of the City of Buffalo's 2010 Complete Count Census Committee, a charter member of the Buffalo Niagara Economic Development Corporation board of directors, a member of the Western New York Women's Fund board of directors and a Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Commissioner, a member of the Community Foundation board of directors from 2014 to 2024, and she currently serves as the president of the Erie County N.Y. Chapter of the Links Inc. and is an active member of the Buffalo Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bonita Durand was placed on several Buffalo First-a Buffalo-based business journal's 2024 lists, including its 2024: Power 200 Women the regions' top female leaders, where she ranked 20th; and the Power 100 Leaders of Color list she landed at number 1; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure with Buffalo State University, Dr. Bonita Durand earned the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Bonita Durand upon the occasion of her retirement after 25 years of distinguished service to Buffalo State University; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Bonita Durand.