

Assembly Resolution No. 1323

BY: M. of A. Conrad

COMMENDING Dr. Wendy A. Paterson for her years of service as Dean of the School of Education at Buffalo State University

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge outstanding individuals within our midst who have made significant contributions to the communities of this State and Nation; this Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Dr. Wendy A. Paterson for her years of service as Dean of the School of Education at Buffalo State University; she will be honored for her decades of dedicated service and innovative leadership at a Retirement Celebration at Buffalo State University on Friday, May 22, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wendy Paterson, a native of Kenmore, New York, has devoted her life and career to the advancement of education, guided by a deep and enduring commitment to teaching, learning, and student success; and

WHEREAS, A distinguished graduate of Kenmore West High School, where she served as Valedictorian and Class President, Wendy Paterson pursued her lifelong ambition to become an educator at Buffalo State College; there she earned her Bachelor of Science in Education (summa cum laude) and her Master of Science in Education with certification in Literacy, later completing her Doctor of Philosophy in Elementary Education at the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Wendy Paterson began her professional journey in 1976 as Reading Specialist in the Kenmore-Tonawanda public schools; she expanded her impact in higher education as Coordinator of Developmental Skills and Services to Handicapped Students at Trocaire College, demonstrating an early and lasting commitment to access, inclusion, and academic opportunity for all students; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Wendy Paterson joined Buffalo State College, playing an integral role in launching the institution's academic support system which grew into University College; for more than two decades of service, she was a respected leader across the campus, contributing to faculty governance, advancing diversity initiatives, promoting academic excellence, and shaping institutional strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, Following the completion of her doctoral studies, Dr. Wendy Paterson filled roles in the Department of Elementary Education and Reading, including Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and ultimately, Full Professor; she served two consecutive terms as Department Chair; in recognition of her exceptional service and leadership, she was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence

in Service in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Under Dr. Wendy Paterson's leadership, the School of Education has reinforced Buffalo State University's historic mission of preparing exceptional teachers through dynamic community partnerships and global learning opportunities that place teacher candidates in classrooms across multiple continents; and

WHEREAS, An internationally recognized scholar, Dr. Wendy Paterson has made significant contributions to the fields of literacy, family studies, and education through her research and publications; she is a critically acclaimed author, and her scholarship has appeared in respected journals; in 2003, she was honored with the Albert Harris Award from the International Reading Association for her innovative research on instructional technology and early literacy; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Wendy Paterson has exemplified excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service; she has inspired countless students, supported faculty development, and championed the belief that teaching is a science, a craft, and an art; and

WHEREAS, The many contributions of which Dr. Wendy Paterson has played a vital role are a testament to her legacy which will inspire future students of the School of Education at Buffalo State University for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of her extraordinary contributions to education, transformative leadership, and enduring influence on students, educators, and communities locally, nationally, and globally, this Legislative Body proudly honors Dr. Wendy Paterson and expresses profound gratitude for her service and achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those dedicated individuals who have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence unquestionably have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Dr. Wendy A. Paterson upon the occasion of her retirement and to wish her well in all her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Wendy A. Paterson.