

# RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education recognizes the significant accomplishments of Dr. Robert V. Antonucci at the conclusion of his twelfth year as president of Fitchburg State University; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Antonucci, a first-generation college student, earned two degrees from Fitchburg State; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Antonucci spent over four decades in public service, first as an educator, then a school administrator, superintendent of two K–12 school districts, and Commissioner of Education, briefly joining the private sector before returning to his alma mater in 2003 as its tenth president; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Antonucci has over the last twelve years transformed Fitchburg State University, physically and otherwise, into a vibrant, energetic, highly appealing state university, culminating in the recent completion of a state-of-the-art science facility which the University Board of Trustees and the Board of Higher Education named *The Robert V. & Jeanne S. Antonucci Science Complex*; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Antonucci’s record of success at Fitchburg State includes the drafting of a new strategic plan, structural reorganization, completion of a record-setting fundraising campaign, completion of a host of capital projects, and an ambitious series of technology initiatives, all while ensuring that the university remains student-centered and provides a high-quality, affordable education for all; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Antonucci, known better to the students of Fitchburg State University simply as “Prez Bob,” has always had an open-door policy, attended countless student activities and sporting events, sought every opportunity to engage with students as he traveled on campus, and championed himself on always bettering the student experience at Fitchburg State; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to fulfilling his duties on campus, Dr. Antonucci has been a tireless community advocate and spokesperson for public schools and colleges, serving on local, regional and national boards, meeting with officials at all levels of government, and working to revitalize Fitchburg and all of North Central Massachusetts.

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Antonucci has worked tirelessly throughout his tenure and, while always wearing the green and gold of Fitchburg State University, has demonstrated a profound commitment to what is best for students of the Commonwealth and its system of public higher education;

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

*On behalf of the members of the Board of Higher Education, the Department staff, and the students and institutions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education honors and commends Dr. Robert V. Antonucci on the occasion of his retirement from the presidency at Fitchburg State University.*

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Chris Gabrieli, Chairman  
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

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Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

June 16, 2015