

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education recognizes the significant accomplishments of Dr. Charles F. Desmond at the conclusion of his service as Chairman; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Desmond was appointed Chair of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education in 2008 by Governor Deval Patrick and served with distinction, following a thirty-year career at the University of Massachusetts Boston in various capacities, including his final role as associate chancellor for school/community collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Desmond led the Board during a time of tremendous progress and positive change, working closely with Commissioner Richard Freeland to plan and win approval of the landmark strategic agenda known as the Vision Project, setting the public higher education system on a path to producing “the best-educated citizenry and workforce in the nation”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Desmond drew from his life experience as both an individual of color and a veteran of the United States Army to advance the cause of educational access for all students, regardless of their race, gender, age or economic status; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Desmond presided over a public higher education system that experienced a twenty-three percent growth in student enrollment during his tenure, and similarly grew in the estimation of the public, the business community and members of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Desmond presided over the Board at a time when admission standards were raised to reflect the state’s need for college applicants better prepared for math and science; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Desmond led the Board in approving the nation’s first state-level plan to measure the civic learning outcomes of public college and university students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Desmond rallied the Board to seek closer collaboration with the Departments of Early Education & Care and Elementary & Secondary Education, in a bid to prepare students for success all along the educational continuum; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Desmond has devoted his life’s work to the cause of student advancement, working to ensure that the doors of opportunity remain open to all those who aspire to achieve the American Dream, which lies at the heart of our national experience;

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. Charles F. Desmond for his outstanding service as Chairman.

Chris Gabrieli, Chairman
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

June 16, 2015