

# RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. Mary K. Grant at the conclusion of her twelve years as President of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant began her tenure as the 11<sup>th</sup> President in 2002, and is the first alumna of the institution to serve as its president; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant's vision and leadership has resulted in national recognition for the College, as it has been named one of the Top 10 Public Liberal Arts Colleges in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* for three consecutive years; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of Dr. Grant, the institution is implementing a new strategic plan that has resulted in an expansion in enrollment & faculty positions; academic programs & facilities; internship, research, & service opportunities for students; and important strategies to increase college participation and completion; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant has launched the first capital campaign for the institution, which will dramatically increase private support and accelerate the expansion of key initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant has skillfully advanced an agenda to increase engagement and success in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in Berkshire County, and secured the resources and support to establish the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation at the College; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant's leadership has resulted in *intentional* partnerships between the College and local & regional organizations, including the Berkshire Cultural Resource Center, which is driving economic & community development; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant is deeply committed to establishing robust partnerships across the early education, K–12, higher education, and business sectors, and established the Berkshire Compact for Education and the Berkshire Readiness Center, exemplary models of regional collaboration to enhance educational outcomes for all students and professional learning opportunities for educators; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant has demonstrated a tireless and unwavering commitment to increasing the college & career readiness of all students in Berkshire County, and has significantly increased the aspirations of elementary & middle school students by inviting them to the College and introducing them to college opportunities and experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant has been a passionate advocate for Massachusetts' nine state universities, and served as the Chair of the Council of Presidents for the Massachusetts State University System; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant has shared her considerable expertise by serving on multiple statewide task forces and committees, including the Steering Committee for the Partnership to Advance Collaboration and Efficiencies and most recently the Enrollment Planning Discussion Group; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant has received the Massachusetts State Merit Award from the New England Board of Higher Education for her exemplary contributions to public higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Grant has demonstrated exceptional leadership and profound commitment to continually enhancing the quality of public higher education and creating transformative learning and other opportunities for all students;

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

*On behalf of the members of the Board of Higher Education, staff members at the Department of Higher Education, and the students and institutions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education honors and commends Dr. Mary K. Grant on the occasion of her departure from the presidency at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.*

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Charles F. Desmond, Chairman  
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

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Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

December 9, 2014