

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education recognizes the significant accomplishments of Dr. Carole A. Cowan at the conclusion of her twenty-fifth year as president of Middlesex Community College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cowan joined the faculty of Middlesex Community College in 1976 and after one year was selected by the student body as Professor of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cowan quickly rose through the ranks at the College, being appointed chairwoman of the Business Division in 1980, dean of administrative services in 1988, and finally the third president of the College in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cowan has led Middlesex Community College through a period of tremendous growth, with a 60 percent increase in enrollment in the past eighteen years, the opening of the permanent campuses in Bedford and Lowell, and the acquisition and renovation of several local historic buildings by the Middlesex Community College Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cowan has established Middlesex Community College as a leader in life science technology, opening the Health, Science & Technology Center in 1995, two new clinical laboratories and the Health & STEM Pathways Center in 2013, and in 2014 receiving a \$3 million grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to build a new biotechnology facility; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cowan has served in leadership roles at the state and national levels, including with the US Higher Education Summit on Global Development, the American Association of Community Colleges' international initiatives, and Governor Deval Patrick's Readiness Project Leadership Council; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cowan is an active participant in the community and has been recognized for her accomplishments, including being the first woman and first educator to be named Distinguished Business Person of the Year by the North Suburban Chamber of Commerce, and also receiving the Outstanding Educator's Award from Salem State University, Business Person of the Year from the Billerica Chamber of Commerce, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Living the Dream Award from the Lara Smith Family Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees has recognized Dr. Cowan for her thirty-eight years of service by naming the main building of the Lowell campus the *Dr. Carole A. Cowan Center*; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cowan has worked tirelessly throughout her tenure and has demonstrated 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. Carole A. Cowan on the occasion of her retirement from the presidency at Middlesex Community College.

Chris Gabrieli, Chairman
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

April 28, 2015