

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education recognizes the significant accomplishments of Dr. William Messner at the conclusion of his twelfth year as president of Holyoke Community College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Messner has spent thirty years as a dedicated community college leader, including previous appointments as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Colleges and president of Orange County Community College in New York; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Dr. Messner founded the Kittredge Center for Business & Workforce Development, which has become a premier resource for workforce training, professional development, and personal growth in the Pioneer Valley; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Dr. Messner's deep focus on adult education and accessibility of community college to non-traditional students led to the founding of the Picknelly Adult & Family Education Center in downtown Holyoke and the founding of a nationally recognized Gateway to College program at Holyoke Community College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Messner has continued to respond to student and workforce needs in the region through the opening of the Center for Health Education in 2015 and the development of a new Center for Hospitality and Culinary Arts scheduled to open in January 2017; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Messner's successful efforts to build strong collaborations between Springfield Technical Community College and Holyoke Community College produced the Training and Workforce Options (TWO) program, which received the 2015 Deval Patrick Award for Community Colleges from The Boston Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Messner's service to the community includes time as a member and former chairman of the United Way of the Pioneer Valley, and on boards and commissions including the Regional Employment Board, the Economic Development Council, the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, the Network to End Homelessness, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Messner has worked tirelessly throughout his tenure and 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. William Messner on the occasion of his retirement from the presidency at Holyoke Community College.

Chris Gabrieli, Chairman
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

June 14, 2016