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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 6/6/2012
Sponsor(s): Laurino, Margaret (39)
Type: Resolution
Title: Congratulations extended to Murrell J. Higgins
Committee(s) Assignment:

*CONGRATULATIONS EXTENDED TO MURRELL J. HIGGINS DUSTER
ON HER RETIREMENT*

WHEREAS, Murrell J. Higgins Duster is retiring after more thirty-five years of being a member of the Northeastern Illinois University community; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this occasion by The Honorable Margaret Laurino, Alderman of the 39th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Murrell J. Higgins Duster, Associate Vice President and Dean for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs, and Assistant Professor, Teacher Education at Northeastern Illinois University is affectionately known as Dean Duster by many at the University; and

WHEREAS, Student development, multicultural education and leadership in education are among her areas of expertise; and

WHEREAS, Murrell J. Higgins Duster has focused on topics such as African-American students in higher education, academic planning for developmental academic advising, strategies for assisting under-prepared students, conflict resolution and crisis intervention in schools; and

WHEREAS, Murrell J. Higgins Duster had served in the past as Dean of Academic Development, Affirmative Action Officer, Executive Director of the WorkForce Diversity Institute and Operational Administrator for EI Centro; and

WHEREAS, Murrell J. Higgins Duster is known for her success in developing partnerships between the University and local public schools, which has led to improvements in student access and retention; and

WHEREAS, Murrell J. Higgins Duster established Northeastern Illinois University's Summer Transition Program in 1989, and the program continues to serve as a national model for bringing students to the University; and

WHEREAS, Murrell J. Higgins Duster is the founding leader of the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs. Her vision for the programs and physical space for the center has come to life and is a destination for all; and

WHEREAS, Murrell J. Higgins Duster is active in the community and has served on numerous committees and boards, including the Chicago Foundation for Education, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Citizen's Schools Committee, Black Creativity Committee of the Museum of Science and Industry, Governor's Task Force on Reading Literacy for the State of Illinois and Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Murrell J. Higgins Duster completed her doctoral work in educational and social policy studies and earned her Masters in Education degree in early childhood education/educational administration from Loyola University Chicago and her Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Roosevelt University; and

WHEREAS, The leaders of this great City of Chicago are cognizant of the great debt owed to Murrell J. Higgins Duster for over thirty-five years of service; now therefore,

Be It Resolved, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this sixth day of June, 2012, do hereby express our gratitude and heartiest congratulations to Murrell J. Higgins Duster as she retires, and we extend to this fine citizen our very best wishes for continuing success and fulfillment; and

Be It Further Resolved, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Murrell J. Higgins Duster.


MARGARET LAURINO
Alderman, 39th Ward



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