

VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION 2021-019

*Honoring the Exceptional Service of Dr. Elaine C. Collins*

- WHEREAS, for 6 years Elaine Collins has led transformational change at Johnson State College, Lyndon State College, and Northern Vermont University (NVU), bringing her strong values to work every day; and
- WHEREAS, Elaine Collins has successfully led the unification of Johnson State College and Lyndon State College, which has become a national model resulting in routine consultation on other active and proposed mergers; and
- WHEREAS, Elaine Collins has provided tireless leadership to ensure access to higher education in our rural communities; and
- WHEREAS, Elaine Collins has served as a NECHE Commissioner commencing in the fall of 2019, which provided her with an experience and perspective that has served NVU and the VSC well; and
- WHEREAS, Elaine Collins has overseen the implementation of the first NVU strategic plan with 85% of the planning goals complete or in progress; and
- WHEREAS, Elaine Collins has during her tenure stewarded donors resulting in a \$3.5 million private gift, the largest gift received in the System, and two USDA grants to support teleconferencing equipment linking NVU programming to 60 sites across Vermont; and
- WHEREAS, Elaine Collins values the transformative student experience and has during her tenure received a \$1.8 million Title III Strengthening Institution grant focusing on student success; founded the inaugural Women's Triathlon Team at Johnson; provided leadership in the NAC and served as the NAC President; and with a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), she initiated the first DEI task force on the Johnson campus; and
- WHEREAS, Elaine Collins has a strong commitment to advance innovative professional and liberal arts education, founding the Center for Teaching and Learning, successfully secured COPLAC designation for the Johnson campus prior to unification, and established several new degree programs, including the innovative and interdisciplinary Performance, Arts, and Technology program, Data Science, Digital Communications, and a Masters in Leadership, as well as acquiring the Masters in Mental Health Counseling program that is established in

Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Wisconsin, and Alaska; and additionally, expanding the NVU Online division; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Collins has provided exceptional community leadership and enhanced the economic viability of NVU by developing the Do North Co-Working Space in Lyndonville and securing the Forestry Accelerator grant; developed a partnership with the Vermont Woodworking School; and developed a partnership with VTC to provide northern tier communities greater access to nursing programming; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Collins has provided exceptional leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure a safe learning and working campus environment; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges System values and celebrates the contributions of Elaine Collins to Northern Vermont University, to the System, and to the State of Vermont and wishes her the very best.

DATED this 4th day of August 2021.

Approved: August 4, 2021

*Eileen M Dickinson*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eileen "Lynn" Dickinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees