

A RESOLUTION honoring Madisonville Community College President Dr. Judith L. Rhoads on the occasion of her pending retirement on March 18, 2016.

WHEREAS, Dr. Judith Rhoads holds a Doctor of Education degree from Vanderbilt University. She began her teaching career at Madisonville Community College (MCC) in 1976 as a member of the psychology faculty and was chosen as Teacher of the Year four times before going on to serve as Dean of Academic Affairs at Owensboro Community College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Judith Rhoads has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of MCC since July 1, 1998; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Judith Rhoads has tirelessly worked to make MCC a better place to learn and to work. Under her leadership, MCC was named one of the top 10 percent of community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute, and was ranked first in the state for the highest graduation rate for two-year colleges by the Complete College America Project; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Judith Rhoads has also grown the Workforce Solutions Department from an enrollment of 2,000 enrollees to more than 8,300 per year, allowing the department to expand its influence in such important sectors as mine training and rescue; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Judith Rhoads has diligently labored to make MCC an institution that focuses all efforts on student success. To this end the administration and faculty have undertaken a series of initiatives such as installing a "critical thinking across the curriculum" enhancement plan, and implementing a locally developed and delivered professional development program. These initiatives have helped to bolster MCC's resources and grant funding, and have increased the college's enrollment by 70 percent; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Judith Rhoads has been a firm believer in the impact the community has on its institution of higher learning. She has served on many local boards

and councils, such as the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board, the Madisonville-Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, the Madisonville-Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce, and the Hopkins County Community Coalition for Prevention of Substance Abuse. She has also generously given back to her community, making donations to the School Counts! for Hopkins County Endowment, the BuildSmart Madisonville Campaign, the Madisonville Library Endowment, the Webster County Scholarship Fund, and the Jerry and Judy Rhoads 2+2 Scholarship Endowment. Her tireless work in the community and for its citizens has made MCC a shining example of local and civic pride; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2016, Dr. Judith Rhoads will retire as President and CEO of Madisonville Community College, ending nearly two decades of impeccable leadership and service. This honorable body honors her on this day for her vision and work ethic; grants her best wishes as she begins this new and exciting chapter of her life; and acknowledges the support of her family: her husband, former Kentucky State Senator Jerry Rhoads; sons, Brad and Chris Rhoads; and eight grandchildren;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor Dr. Judith L. Rhoads upon her pending retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Madisonville Community College, and wish her the best of luck as she embarks upon a well-deserved retirement.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Dr. Judith L. Rhoads.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Dorsey Ridley for delivery.