

STATE OF WASHINGTON STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES RESOLUTION 22-12-54

A resolution relating to congratulating Dr. Michele Johnson on her retirement after 17 years as chancellor of the Pierce College District.

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is retiring after 45 years of service to the Pierce College District, including 17 years as chancellor, six years as president of Pierce College Fort Steilacoom, and 15 years as a faculty member;

WHEREAS, As a student at Tacoma’s Lincoln High School – at which time Willie Stewart became the first Black principal in the city – Dr. Johnson developed a deep appreciation for diversity, equity, and inclusion, principles which guided her throughout her career;

WHEREAS, Starting her career as a criminal justice instructor at Fort Steilacoom Community College, Dr. Johnson learned the importance of education as a way for people to improve their lives so they can thrive in an evolving world;

WHEREAS, Under her leadership, Dr. Johnson can count among Pierce College’s many accomplishments the pursuit of eliminating inequities while building an anti-racist college district, doubling graduation rates, many capital projects, twice earning recognition as an Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence Top 10 finalist, Achieving the Dream’s Leah Meyer Austin Award and Leader College of Distinction;

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson was recognized by the Association of Community Colleges Trustees’ Pacific Region CEO of the Year, the Business Examiner as a Woman of Influence, the Tacoma News Tribune as one of 20 people to watch in the new century, and NWAACC as its Region II Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year and NWAACC’s Softball Coach of the Year – twice;

WHEREAS, Upon announcing her retirement, Pierce College Trustee Chair Brett Willis said of Dr. Johnson: “We owe her a debt of gratitude for her vision, her leadership, and mentorship. We will miss her, but her legacy of excellence will live on;”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges hereby congratulates Dr. Michele Johnson for her years of service to thousands of students and the Pierce College community. The State Board offers its congratulations and best wishes.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on December 8, 2022.

Attest



Paul Francis, secretary



Phyllis Gutiérrez Kenney, chair