



RESOLUTION HONORING

JOHN W. BARDO

CHANCELLOR, WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, JOHN W. BARDO has served as the Chancellor of Western Carolina University since 1995, demonstrating sound vision and strength of conviction throughout his tenure; and

WHEREAS, He has guided Western Carolina University through a period of unparalleled enrollment growth from 6,500 students to more than 9,400 today, with a most positive impact on thousands of students that have passed through Cullowhee during his tenure will endure.

WHEREAS, Chancellor Bardo has transformed the campus facilities to better serve this growing student population, greatly enhanced the learning environment for students and faculty, representing a commitment to ensure students receive the highest quality learning experience from Western Carolina University.

WHEREAS, As a result of his vision, you established a goal of “raising the bar” by increasing admission standards and improving academic programs; additionally, a cutting-edge, nationally recognized program also was initiated requiring students to bring computers to campus. As a result of Dr. Bardo’s vision, Western Carolina University made the top ten list of U.S. News and World Report’s list of leading public regional universities in the South.

WHEREAS, Dr. Bardo pioneered the university’s “Quality Enhancement Plan” which emphasizes strong connections between student’s academic and extracurricular activities. This model is considered “the” national model for higher education associations. Equally impressive is the residential Honors College that was created during his tenure and has grown in stature and in numbers to be one of the largest in the country; and

WHEREAS, He has not only focused on attracting the best and the brightest students, but also has attracted top faculty members. Western Carolina University has gone from none to twenty-one endowed distinguished professorships. Dr. Bardo has also embraced a model to hire faculty with diverse, real life experiences in their respective disciplines and who are able to share those experiences with students.

WHEREAS, Chancellor Bardo has made a lasting connection and commitment to the community at large. He has embraced the mountain culture and in return, Chancellor Bardo has won the allegiance and support of internal as well as external stakeholders contributing to the success of Western Carolina University. Dr. Bardo puts his words into action. He has reached

out and strengthened the relationship with Western University's Native American community of Cherokee tirelessly working to improve educational opportunities for the Cherokee people.

WHEREAS, He has worked to educate local and federal government understand the mission of Western Carolina University and has sought their efforts to help support economic development in Western North Carolina region. His efforts are not partisan, but "purple" as he brings his own unique brand of "Purple Power" to secure economic efforts to benefit the entire mountain region.

WHEREAS, Dr. Bardo will retire as Chancellor of Western Carolina University on June 30, 2011 after sixteen years of exemplary service and extraordinary leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina express its sincere gratitude to **JOHN W. BARDO** for his long standing and unquestioned leadership to the Western Carolina University, to the University of North Carolina, and to the State.

This the 10th day of June 2010

Hannah D. Gage, *Chairman*

Estelle "Bunny" Sanders, *Secretary*