



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

December 16, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor

SUBJECT: Special Service Commendation for Beth Berlin

Action Requested

The proposed resolution seeks to honor Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice Chancellor for Operations and Management Beth Berlin for her years of service to the State University of New York and the State of New York.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas Beth Berlin has dedicated three decades of her career to public service and higher education in New York State, most recently as the State University of New York's Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice Chancellor for Operations and Management; and

Whereas as Chief Operating Officer, Beth has been responsible for the management of SUNY's core administrative functions, reporting directly to the Chancellor and providing critical executive leadership across a broad portfolio including the Offices of the Board of Trustees, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Strategy Officer, Information Technology, Cybersecurity, Human Resources, Facilities, the Construction Fund, University Auditor, Presidential Recruitment and Development, and the Charter School Institute; and

Whereas most recently, Beth led the launch of SUNY's Digital Transformation Project, a historic \$200 million investment to modernize the student experience and update SUNY's digital infrastructure, demonstrating strategic vision and an unwavering commitment to innovation and progress; and

Whereas to ensure the integrity and security of SUNY's IT systems, Beth implemented a comprehensive restructuring of SUNY's cybersecurity operations, including the recruitment of a new Chief Information Security Officer and the procurement of advanced tools and technologies to strengthen SUNY's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to cyber threats; and

Whereas under her leadership, recognizing the need for SUNY to thrive in a rapidly evolving workplace, Beth led a restructuring of the Office of Human Resources to foster a more employee-centered environment, emphasizing professional growth, equity and inclusion, and workforce development, while simultaneously strengthening system-wide HR policies and processes to enhance employee engagement, organizational effectiveness, and SUNY's capacity to adapt to new ways of working; and

Whereas in addition to her responsibilities as SUNY's Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice Chancellor for Operations and Management, Beth has twice been appointed as Officer in Charge of SUNY campuses during challenging and critical periods of transition, providing much needed stability and leadership drawn upon her many years in public service and higher education; and

Whereas Beth has dedicated decades of distinguished public service to the people of the State of New York, serving in leadership roles across multiple state and county agencies, including as Chief Operating Officer, Executive Deputy Commissioner and Interim Commissioner of the New York State Education Department, Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, and Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Albany County Department of Social Services; and

Whereas throughout her career, Beth has provided strategic leadership, overseeing major statewide and local initiatives in education, social services, and public assistance, directing modernization and efficiency projects, ensuring fiscal

accountability, and expanding programs that benefit residents across New York State; and

Whereas Beth is widely admired for her kindness, integrity, intelligence, and compassion, earning the respect and loyalty of colleagues and associates, who consistently recognize her as a supportive, inspiring, and exemplary leader who is committed to achieving SUNY's mission; and

Whereas through her grace and remarkable sense of humor, Beth has endeared herself to everyone she meets, fostering an atmosphere of camaraderie and warmth that motivates those around her to be their very best; and

Whereas her contributions have had a lasting impact on SUNY, its campuses, employees, and the countless students whose education and opportunities have been enriched by her dedication to operational excellence and public service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York hereby expresses its deepest appreciation and highest commendation to Beth Berlin for her outstanding leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to SUNY, its campuses and students, and to the advancement of higher education in New York State.