M E M O R A N D U M

June 29, 2020

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Establishment and Naming of two Cree Endowed Faculty Chairs at SUNY Polytechnic Institute

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the establishment of two “Cree Endowed Chairs” at SUNY Polytechnic Institute to be named after two of the company’s co-founders, Dr. John Palmour and Dr. John Edmond.

Resolution

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

Resolved that the establishment and naming the Cree Endowed Faculty Chairs as the “John Palmour SUNY Polytechnic Institute Endowed Faculty Chair” and the “John Edmond SUNY Polytechnic Institute Endowed Faculty Chair” at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, be, and hereby is, approved.

Background

Cree, Inc. (Cree), an innovator of Wolfspeed power and radio frequency semiconductors targeted for applications, including those keyed toward the rapidly developing electric vehicle market, has agreed to undertake a project whereby it will develop, construct, own, occupy and operate a 200 mm capable Silicon Carbide and Gallium Nitride wafer fabrication facility and related facilities on State University of New York property adjacent to the SUNY Polytechnic Institute’s Marcy Campus. This project represents a total investment in excess of $1,000,000,000. In addition, Cree will support two endowed chairs to be named after its co-founders.

Dr. John Edmond, an alumnus of the Inamori School of Engineering at the New York State College of Ceramics (’83), was one of the original co-founders of Cree in 1987. Today he serves as the head of Cree’s New Product Introduction
process for the Wolfspeed power division and lead Advisory Scientist. He is credited with pioneering the light-emitting diode (LED) technology that helped ignite the LED lighting revolution. He has 160 issued patents and 8 pending in the US, with an additional 264 issued and 24 pending foreign patents.

Dr. John Palmour, another Cree co-founder, today serves as its Chief Technology Officer. He focuses on pioneering breakthrough semiconductor technology for power and radio frequency applications in Cree’s Wolfspeed division. Dr. Palmour is a co-inventor of 75 U.S. patents in the areas of processing and device designs for silicon carbide and gallium nitride electronic devices.

Cree has committed to providing $300,000 per year over a five-year period beginning in August 2020 for a total commitment of $1,500,000. Cree and the SUNY Polytechnic Institute Foundation will enter into a formal donor agreement for the two endowed faculty chairs.