

## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

*WHEREAS, Dr. Richard B. Williams is the 18th president of Dixie State University; and*

*WHEREAS, since the start of his presidency in 2014, President Williams has prioritized student success and continues to be the topmost champion of all DSU students, faculty, and staff; and*

*WHEREAS, through his leadership, beginning in the year following its designation as a university, at the local and at the statewide level, the institution has advanced from university status to stature; and*

*WHEREAS, President Williams led the university through the launch of many new academic programs and the launch of its first online and master's degree programs, thereby increasing higher education opportunity and access to more students; and*

*WHEREAS, through President Williams' leadership during the implementation of his first strategic plan, Status to Stature: 2015–20, 111 academic programs were added, enrollment increased by 41%, Concurrent Enrollment grew by 257%, freshman retention rates improved by 4.3%, a record number of degrees were awarded, scholarship funds for students nearly doubled, athletics moved to Division I, facilities available on campus nearly doubled, and U.S. News & World Report ranked DSU among the best public colleges in the West for the first time in DSU history; and*

*WHEREAS, with a university so rooted in the community, he has expertly balanced the needs of the campus community with those of southern Utah residents; and*

*WHEREAS, under President Williams' leadership, DSU has adopted an active and applied learning approach that prioritizes industry collaboration and career-focused education; and*

*WHEREAS, President Williams has continued to enhance statewide partnerships while preparing Trailblazers through active learning for the workforce; and*

*WHEREAS, Dr. Williams has shown great fortitude as president and has navigated the university successfully through challenging issues; and*

*WHEREAS, he holds a Bachelor of Science in Lifestyle Management from Weber State University, a master's degree in athletic training from Indiana State University, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from New Mexico State University; and*

*WHEREAS, his work over the last year has prepared the institution, and all those who are affiliated with DSU, to be successful throughout any changes ahead;*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, specifically for his outstanding contributions to the university and within the Utah System of Higher Education over the last year, the Utah Board of Higher Education, joined by the Commissioner of Higher Education and his staff, and institution presidents, faculty, staff, and students commend and express their deepest thanks to President Richard B. Williams and look forward to his future years of leadership at the university.*

*Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2021.*



Harris H. Simmons, Chair  
Utah Board of Higher Education



Dave R. Woolstenhulme  
Commissioner of Higher Education