

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, President Kelle Stephens has served as the 2nd President of Dixie Technical College since 2012; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, Dixie Technical College has grown to offer twenty new accredited degree programs in state-of-the-art facilities,

WHEREAS, President Stephens has prioritized student success with strong community partnerships, secured legislative fundraising, and committed to transforming Dixie Tech as an educational leader on Tech Ridge in St. George; and

WHEREAS, she gave more than three decades of dedicated service to Dixie Technical College, including as the Custom Fit Training Director from 1992 to 2010, Vice President of Instruction from 2010 to 2012, and President of Dixie Technical College from 2012 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, under President Stephens' leadership, Dixie Technical College significantly increased student success by transitioning from an open-entry/open-exit flexible education model to a cohort-based structured learning model; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, graduation rates have increased by 20%, as twenty technical programs were added to the preexisting six, and each program has adopted an Occupational Advisory Committee comprised of employers who review curriculum and teaching methods; and

WHEREAS, while Dixie Technical College's certificate-seeking membership hours have grown 90% in the last four fiscal years, President Stephens has driven student success with a 78% graduation rate, a 94% completion rate, a 96% placement rate, and a 100% licensure rate; and

WHEREAS, since the inauguration of President Stephens, financial support, including donor contributions, and legislative funding for the technical college has expanded to new horizons with generous legislative funding, and donations from the community to build a three-story permanent main campus; and

WHEREAS, thousands of students in Washington County and the State of Utah have had their lives changed by the education they received at Dixie Technical College; and

WHEREAS, she holds a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and a master's degree in social sciences from Utah State University; and

WHEREAS, during her time at Dixie Technical College, President Stephens guided the college in extraordinary development and growth—increasing the local, county, and state prominence of the college by fostering necessary partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the Utah Board of Higher Education recognizes President Stephens for her dedication to and exemplary service at Dixie Technical College over thirty years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Board of Higher Education, joined by the Commissioner of Higher Education and his staff, and institution presidents, faculty, staff, and students who have worked with Kelle Stephens, hereby extend sincere expressions of appreciation and respect, and wish her and her husband and their children and grandchildren the best in their future endeavors.

Dated this 25th day of March 2022.

*Harris H. Simmons, Chair
Utah Board of Higher Education*



*Dave R. Woolstenhulme
Commissioner of Higher Education*