

RESOLUTION

PRESIDENT JOHN G. PETERS

- WHEREAS**, in June 2000, John G. Peters was unanimously appointed President of Northern Illinois University where he has effectively and faithfully served; and
- WHEREAS**, given the scope and tenure of John G. Peters' service to Northern Illinois University, it is fitting and appropriate to give special notice and recognition to John G. Peters who is retiring from the NIU presidency on June 30, 2013; and
- WHEREAS**, John Peters developed a student-centered presidency at Northern Illinois University focused on and committed to the needs and welfare of students; and
- WHEREAS**, the National Association of Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education awarded John Peters its highest honor in 2010, the President's Award, citing John's "vision for and stewardship of Northern Illinois University over the past decade..." that continues to advance the quality of student life on campus; and
- WHEREAS**, having a decade of distinguished and exemplary service as president, John G. Peters stands as the senior and highly respected dean among the presidents of Illinois Public Universities sharing his expertise and leadership, particularly in the areas of emergency and strategic planning; and
- WHEREAS**, since John Peters assumed the helm of Northern Illinois University, NIU was admitted to the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, granted full membership in the prestigious Universities Research Association, and earned the selective Research Universities – High Research Activity designation of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; and
- WHEREAS**, John G. Peters' leadership in garnering private support during his tenure resulted in four new privately-funded buildings, more than 15,000 scholarships, 25 named professorships and distinguished faculty chairs and more private dollars raised in support of NIU than during its previous 105-year history; and
- WHEREAS**, John G. Peters led the effort for NIU to obtain tens of millions of dollars in federal funding in support of the academic programs, research, and student and public services of the university; and
- WHEREAS**, despite serving during a period of unprecedented state budget reductions, limitations, and uncertainty, President Peters provided exceptional and dynamic leadership and forged ahead to preserve this great university, its quality academic programs and services, and yet held as a priority the welfare of our faculty, staff, students and their families despite reduced and uncertain state support; and
- WHEREAS**, in spite of limited resources and state support for capital improvements, President Peters' leadership and perseverance allowed the institution to address identified health and safety concerns and obtain funding for the completion of the renovations and reopening of NIU's signature building, Altgeld Hall, build an extensive new chiller system to efficiently regulate temperatures in campus facilities, procure funds to complete the renovation and re-opening of Cole Hall, build a high-tech state-of-the-art 1008 bed residence hall for new students, renovate and re-open to student life, Gilbert Hall, develop a top quality outdoor intramural and recreation facility for students on the west campus, finalize the architectural plans and engineering drawings to renovate Stevens Hall, home of the university's theatre and dance and anthropology programs; and
- WHEREAS**, John G. Peters demonstrated compassion, dignity, strength and leadership during the immediate and continuing aftermath of the February 14, 2008 campus tragedy, including his service as the face and voice of Northern Illinois University to citizens and media representatives throughout the campus, city, region, state, country and world during those critical hours and days following the tragic shootings that claimed the lives of five students and injured 21 others; and
- WHEREAS**, John G. Peters established a presidency in which he is credited with leading by example, the John G. and Barbara Cole Peters Scholarship for Outstanding Public Service was created for students who intend to pursue a public service career; and
- WHEREAS**, Peters was appointed to represent the Mid-American Conference the NCAA Division I Board of Directors that instituted historic reforms which toughened academic standards and provided increased academic and financial support to student-athletes; and
- WHEREAS**, President Peters was appointed to represent the Mid-American Conference on the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) Board of Managers and worked diligently to ensure greater access by non-automatic qualifying conference members to BCS bowl games; and
- WHEREAS**, John Peters' hired athletics directors who significantly elevated the national stature of NIU athletics while developing champions in the classroom, in competition and in life, culminating with an appearance in the 2013 Orange Bowl; and
- WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees wishes to officially express its appreciation and gratitude for John G. Peters' many far-reaching contributions to Northern Illinois University.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled, extends its grateful appreciation to John G. Peters for thirteen years of distinguished, dynamic, and exemplary service and leadership by bestowing on Dr. Peters the title of President Emeritus of Northern Illinois University.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this **RESOLUTION** be presented to John G. Peters and a copy of this document be placed in the official files of the Board of Trustees as part of the permanent record of the university and the state of Illinois and as a lasting tribute to the on-going accomplishments and contributions of John G. Peters as President of Northern Illinois University.

Adopted in a regular meeting assembled this 20th day of June, 2013.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Cheryl G. Murer
Chair



Attest: Robert T. Marshall
Secretary

