

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 142

House concurrent resolution honoring Bennington College President Elizabeth Coleman for her visionary academic leadership and scholarship

Offered by: Representatives Campion of Bennington, Mook of Bennington, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Corcoran of Bennington, Donovan of Burlington, and Wilson of Manchester

Offered by: Senators Hartwell and Sears

Whereas, in 1987, Elizabeth Coleman began her extraordinary quarter-century tenure as the ninth President of Bennington College, and

Whereas, her academic and administrative credentials include: an honors undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago; a PhD with distinction from Columbia University; literary scholarship; and service as the founding Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at New York's New School for Social Research, and

Whereas, her intellectual foresight, pragmatism, and resolute commitment to the long-term viability of Bennington College were called upon in 1994 when, at the Board of Trustees initiation, she led a decisive and difficult organizational restructuring that has brought fiscal stability and innovative academic programs for students, and

Whereas, among these new educational ventures are a low-residency graduate program in creative writing and the ambitious Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA) which invites students to put the world's most pressing problems at the center of their education, and

Whereas, CAPA exemplifies Elizabeth Coleman's belief that higher education should be an innovative catalyst for reinvigorating society, and

Whereas, the Presidency of Elizabeth Coleman reflects many accomplishments, including an historically high enrollment derived from a record number of applicants; fund raising at a record \$175 million; the construction of six new buildings; and campus renovations, including the implementation of biomass as the primary campus heating source, and

Whereas, under Elizabeth Coleman's leadership, Bennington College has happily relinquished the distinction as the nation's most expensive college, offering 80 percent of its students institutional grants and scholarships, with lower debt than the national average, and

Whereas, after a tenure of enormous historical significance and unusual longevity, Bennington College President Elizabeth Coleman will retire this June, but will remain to serve as Director of the Center for the Advancement of Public Action until June 2015, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Bennington College President Elizabeth Coleman for her visionary academic leadership and scholarship, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Elizabeth Coleman at Bennington College.