

Resolution No. 25-29

*Approval of Recommendation to Rename
The Social Justice Building in Honor of Dr. Cheryl F. Green,
Sixth President of Governors State University*

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Board Regulation VI(C)(1), the Board reserves the right to name all buildings belonging to the Board;

WHEREAS, Also pursuant to Board Regulation VI(C)(1), Board property may be named after, among others, notable former employees of the Board;

WHEREAS, Also pursuant to Board Regulation VI(C)(1) and pursuant to University Policy 90, Interim President Bradford convened a University Naming Committee (the “Committee”), representing the interests of constituents across campus including faculty, Civil Service employees, and students, for the purpose of honoring Dr. Cheryl F. Green, the University’s sixth President and its first African American President, who was appointed on July 1, 2020 and retired on March 1, 2025;

WHEREAS, By unanimous vote, the Committee has recommended to Interim President Bradford and Interim President Bradford has recommended to the Board that the Social Justice Building be renamed the “Dr. Cheryl F. Green Social Justice Institute,” in anticipation of the Illinois Board of Higher Education approving the status change of the Social Justice Initiative to the Social

Justice Institute;

WHEREAS, The Committee considered factors such as Dr. Green's contributions to education and society and found that she had made substantial and meaningful such contributions as evidenced by, among other things:

- Dedicating her career of over 35 years to higher education, serving in both academic and administrative positions at several institutions, including earning tenure as an Associate Professor of Counseling at Chicago State University, contributing extensively to research and scholarship, including conducting a study on depression intervention in survivors of breast cancer, serving as Chancellor (Interim) and Vice Chancellor at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, and serving as the sixth President of Governors State University and its first African American President;
- Demonstrating a fierce dedication to social and economic justice, including by founding the Social Justice Initiative at the University, appointing its first Director, and overseeing the funding, development, and construction of the Social Justice Initiative Building, which houses the University's Social Justice Initiative and inaugural Legal Aid Clinic;
- Earning accolades from a variety of esteemed organizations, including, most recently, receiving recognition and induction into HistoryMakers, receiving the Women in Excellence in Education Award from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, being honored as the Distinguished Women's History Month Honoree by the Illinois State Comptroller, being named a Business Leader of Color by Chicago United, being recognized by the Cook County Board of Commissioners for Women's History Month, receiving the Outstanding Commitment in Education Award by the Illinois State Treasurer, among myriad other recognitions;
- Contributing civically and socially through service on a number of boards, including but not limited to the board of her *alma mater*, Manchester University, the Silver Cross Hospital (Community Board Member), the Association of International Education Administrators (Inaugural Presidential Ambassador), the Will County Center for Economic Development, as well as serving as an active member in organizations such as the NAACP (Lifetime Member), Will County Black Diamonds (Ladies of

Distinction), and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated;

- Protecting and advancing the mission, vision, and values of Governors State University with passion, integrity, and success by, among other things, establishing the Honors College and the College of Graduate Studies, installing the University's first Chief Diversity Officer, Compliance Officer, and Director of Social Justice Initiative, establishing the Latinx Resource Center, bringing the Illinois Black Hall of Fame to campus, establishing Greek life on campus, cultivating the receipt of historic gifts, earning the official designation and recognition of the University as both an Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution and a Predominately Black Institution, and educating and enriching the lives of over 4,000 students annually;
- Earning national acclaim for the University by, among other things, leading institutional efforts culminating in recognitions by esteemed organizations such as *U.S. News and World Report* and MilitaryFriendly.com as well as receipt of the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award; and

WHEREAS, The Board finds that it would be in the University's best interests to adopt the recommendations of the Committee and Interim President Bradford by renaming the Social Justice Institute Building to the Dr. Cheryl F. Green Social Justice Institute.

Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved that Board of Trustees of Governors State University does hereby recognize, approve and adopt the recommendation of the Committee and Interim President Bradford to rename the University's Social Justice Initiative Building to the "Dr. Cheryl F. Green Social Justice Institute," effective upon the Illinois Board of Higher Education approving institute status.

Resolved that in appreciation for the service of Dr. Cheryl F. Green to the University, a copy of this Resolution be presented to her family as a symbol of the University's gratitude for Dr. Green's service and dedication to the University.

Approved this 16th day of June 2025


James Kvedaras, Chair


Karen Nunn, Secretary