



Board of Trustees  
June 16, 2025

**Resolution No. 25-30**

***Approval of President Emerita Status for 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 Governors State 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 whom is a University student selected by student peers;

**WHEREAS**, In accordance with Board of Trustees Governing Policy Article VI, the Board may award President *Emerita* status to:

recognize the service of any University president who has honorably served the University as president for at least five (5) years and is retiring, or has retired, as president from the University. The title should be reserved for those whose performance meets or exceeds the expected duties and responsibilities of the post as determined in the Trustees’ sole discretion. Factors the Trustees may consider in awarding this honorific include, but are not limited to, the individual’s success in enhancing the University’s reputation, furthering the University’s mission, objectives and goals, contributing to society, and exemplifying the personal and professional standards of integrity, civic responsibility, vision, and leadership.

**WHEREAS**, After conducting a thorough nationwide search, the Board appointed Dr. Cheryl F. Green as the sixth President of the University, effective July 1, 2020, and renewed that appointment effective July 1, 2023;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Green served with distinction in the role of President until her

retirement, effective March 1, 2025, due to medical concerns, and passed away on April 23, 2025;

**WHEREAS**, Considering the foregoing factors and Dr. Green's performance throughout her tenure as President, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the University to award President *Emerita* status posthumously to Dr. Green given, among other things, her:

- 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, 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 suspend its policy that (i) a University President serve for five years in order to be eligible for *Emerita* status given that Dr. Green substantially completed a term of five years, and (ii) the motion for *Emerita* status be brought at least 12 months after retirement given that this award will be granted posthumously and given the clear evidence of Dr. Green's outstanding performance and service to the University.

Now, therefore, it is:

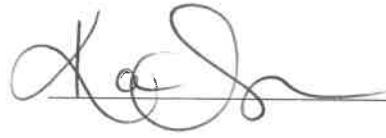
*Resolved*, that the Board grants Dr. Cheryl F. Green, Sixth President of Governors State University, President *Emerita* status with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

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

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Kvedaras", written over a horizontal line.

James Kvedaras, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karen Nunn", written over a horizontal line.

Karen Nunn, Secretary