

2012 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 369

Offered February 13, 2012

Commending Dr. Deborah M. DiCroce.

Patrons—Alexander, Cosgrove, Howell, A.T., Iaquinto, James, Joannou, Knight, Lewis, Purkey, Spruill, Stolle, Tata, Toscano and Villanueva; Senators: Blevins, Locke, Lucas, McWaters, Miller, Y.B., Northam and Wagner

WHEREAS, Dr. Deborah M. DiCroce, one of the Commonwealth's top educational leaders, has announced her retirement as president of Tidewater Community College in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Dr. DiCroce, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Old Dominion University and a doctorate from The College of William & Mary, served as president of Piedmont Virginia Community College before joining Tidewater Community College in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Dr. DiCroce has dedicated much of her career to ensuring that all residents of the Commonwealth have access to higher education to enable them to pursue their own vocational and life goals; and

WHEREAS, under her inspired leadership, Tidewater Community College has grown to become one of the nation's largest community colleges with an enrollment of over 46,000 students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. DiCroce has overseen an unprecedented expansion of the college's transfer and career/technical areas, resulting in more students gaining the skills they need to succeed in today's economy; and

WHEREAS, Dr. DiCroce, a member of Governor McDonnell's Commission on Economic Development and Job Creation, has served on a wide variety of state commissions and committees under five governors and was one of 20 college and university presidents from across the nation invited to participate in a discussion on higher education with President Clinton in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the first president of a community college to chair the Virginia Council of Presidents, Dr. DiCroce served as a trustee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and as chair of the Presidents Academy of the American Association of Community Colleges; and

WHEREAS, Dr. DiCroce has been an active member of the community, chairing the regional board of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and serving as a regional campaign chair for the United Way; she currently serves as chair of the board of directors of the Urban League and the Hampton Roads Partnership; and

WHEREAS, Dr. DiCroce has garnered numerous awards and accolades for her contributions to higher education in the Commonwealth; in 2008 *The Chronicle of Higher Education* profiled her as one of 10 "Presidents Who Make a Real Difference" and in 2010, *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* named her an "Influential Woman of Virginia"; and

WHEREAS, a powerful voice for higher education in the Commonwealth, Dr. DiCroce has helped countless Virginians gain the education and training they need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Dr. Deborah M. DiCroce for her exemplary service as president of Tidewater Community College; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Deborah M. DiCroce as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for her commitment to quality education and best wishes in her future endeavors.

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