

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION HONORING GRETA J. HARRIS**

**WHEREAS**, Greta Harris was appointed to the Board of Visitors in 2016 and reappointed in 2020. During her eight-year tenure, Greta was a member of all the Board's current committees including the Executive Committee, as well as the former Academic Affairs Committee. She also chaired the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee. As part of her legacy, she chaired the nominating committee that brought forth a slate of nominees resulting in the election of the first African-American Rector of Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, a person of strong conviction coupled with uncommon empathy and compassion, Greta spearheaded the Board's initiatives in equity and accessibility. With grace, wisdom, and patience, she guided the university to see and embrace a more inclusive view of its past and present and commit to meaningful steps to ensure a more equitable and inclusive future; and

**WHEREAS**, she earned a bachelor's in architecture from Virginia Tech in 1983 and a master's from Columbia University. In 2013, she became President and CEO of Better Housing Coalition, Richmond's largest nonprofit community development corporation. During her career, she has been involved in more than \$750 million of investments in affordable housing for more than 20,000 modest-income individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, Greta has served her alma mater as a member of the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design Dean's Advisory Board and past member of the Virginia Tech Foundation Board. In 2016, she was named the Virginia Tech Black Alumni Philanthropist of the Year and in 2024 was honored with the Alumni Distinguished Service Award. She generously supports Virginia Tech's diversity and inclusion efforts, including the InclusiveVT Scholarship Fund, and is a member of the 1872 and Legacy Societies; and

**WHEREAS**, among her many accolades, Harris received the 2023 *Virginia Business* Women in Leadership Award, the National NeighborWorks Association's 2021 Practitioner of the Year Award, and the Ruth Coles Harris Leadership Institute 2021 Leadership Award, and was a 2020 Bold Women honoree by *Richmond Magazine*; and

**WHEREAS**, the administration and the members of the board have greatly enjoyed getting to know Greta over the past eight years and appreciate her service, as well as look forward to seeing her at other university events;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University hereby extend their sincere appreciation to Greta Harris for her outstanding loyalty and devoted service and for her faithful dedication to the university and its missions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the resolution recognizing Greta Harris for her service as a member of the Board of Visitors be approved.

August 28, 2024