

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION HONORING MELISSA BYRNE NELSON

WHEREAS, Melissa Byrne Nelson was appointed to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors by Governor Northam in 2019 and during her four-year term served as a member of the Finance and Resource Management Committee and the Executive Committee and as a member and chair of the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee, on which her expertise in developmental and behavioral health was invaluable in the midst of the current nationwide mental health crisis on college campuses. In addition, her knowledge of business and medicine was beneficial to Virginia Tech's many health sciences and technology initiatives, particularly the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and the university's partnership with Children's National Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nelson earned a B.S. degree in finance from Virginia Tech in 1992 before going on to earn her M.D. from the Medical College of Virginia at VCU and complete her pediatric residency at the Cornell University Medical Center. She also received training in developmental and behavioral pediatrics at Albert Einstein University; and

WHEREAS, Melissa has a long history of leadership at her educational institutions. She was the president of the VT class of '92, a former president of the Student Government Association and member of the alumni board both here at Virginia Tech and at VCU, and a former student member of the Board of Visitors at VCU; and

WHEREAS, prior to her new venture with Summit Emotional Health and recent appointment to the Virginia State Board of Health, Melissa was a practicing partner of pediatric medicine with the Pediatric Associates of Richmond since 2004. She was named "Top Doc" by *Richmond Magazine* on several occasions. She is also a former board member of PACKids, where she advocated for the creation of a free-standing children's hospital in Richmond, earning her the title of Outstanding Woman for Health and Science in 2015 from the Richmond YWCA, and a 2015 Person of the Year honoree from the *Richmond Times Dispatch*. She also served on the board for Child Savers, as an advisor to the Faison Center for Autism, and on the Governor's Department of Health PANDAS/PANS Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, a true Hokie, Melissa is passionate about Hokie football, basketball, and all other sports, and the members of the board have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Melissa and her husband, Kinloch, and have enjoyed their company at board meetings, football games, and 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 Melissa Byrne Nelson for her outstanding loyalty and devoted service, and for her faithful dedication to the university and its missions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution recognizing Melissa Byrne Nelson for her service as a member of the Board of Visitors be approved.

August 29, 2023