

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR DON THOMPSON
PURDUE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
October 2022

WHEREAS, Don Thompson served as a member of the Purdue University Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2022, led Purdue's Equity Task Force and has been a major supporter of the College of Engineering and School of Management; and

WHEREAS, Don's impact and commitment to Boilermakers continues to be one of his strongest sources of pride – reflected in his years of working to advance Purdue's commitment to diversity; and

WHEREAS, Don and his wife, Liz (both Purdue graduates), created a \$1 million endowment for the College of Engineering and the Minority Engineering Program – which has been key to the graduation of nearly 3,000 underrepresented minority students at Purdue since 1974 and which supports programs like the Engineering Academic Boot Camp, designed to support the transition of underrepresented students to campus life; and

WHEREAS, Don's selfless contributions, humbleness and genuineness – as well as his heart of pure gold (and black) – have been instrumental to the success of the Dr. Cornell A. Bell Business Opportunity Program, the bedrock of the School of Management student diversity efforts; and

WHEREAS, Don received the Dreamer Award in 2021, presented annually to an individual or organization within the Purdue community whose contributions embody the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of service to others and further the University's commitment to diversity; and

WHEREAS, Don earned his electrical engineering degree from Purdue in 1984, earned the Outstanding Electrical and Computer Engineering Award and was named an Old Master in 2006, and has worked to leverage all of his personal experiences on campus as a dedicated and engaged alum for the greater good of future Boilermakers who have come after him; and

WHEREAS, Don received the Humanitarian Award from the Illinois Holocaust Museum in 2012 and the Black Enterprise Executive of the Year award in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Don's vision for service has made a difference in the lives of millions of customers and employees across the country throughout his career at Northrop Grumman Corp.; at McDonald's Corp., where he served as president and CEO from 2012 to 2015; and as CEO and founder of Cleveland Avenue;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE TRUSTEES OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY:

1. That the Trustees recognize the positive impact of Don Thompson as a member of the Purdue University Board of Trustees, as leader of Purdue's Equity Task Force

and as a major supporter of the College of Engineering and School of Management;
and

2. That enormous gratitude and appreciation are expressed to Don for his loyalty and service to Purdue; and
3. That Don is to be congratulated and thanked for his tremendous contributions to our University; and
4. That his achievements are part of the great, permanent history of Purdue and will never be forgotten; and
5. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Trustees as part of the permanent record of the University.