

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 45

Introduced by Arch, 14.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2023, the NEBRASKAland Foundation will present the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award, recognizing Nebraskans who have distinguished themselves and the state, to Dr. Maryanne Stevens at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stevens joined the Sisters of Mercy in 1966 after graduating from Mercy High School in Omaha and earning a bachelor's degree in math and sociology from Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania, a master's degree in theology from St. Louis University, and a Ph.D. in religion and education from Boston College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stevens served as the Creighton University Theology Program Chair before she decided to leave the classroom in 1996 and pursue a mission of higher education opportunities for women by accepting the position of President of the College of Saint Mary in Omaha; and

WHEREAS, due to the dynamic leadership and guidance of Dr. Stevens, the College of Saint Mary transformed from a struggling, debt-ridden institution into the thriving, financially sound university it is today offering several innovative programs, including a residence hall allowing college-age single mothers to live with their children on campus, scholarships for low-income women majoring in math or science, graduate programs in education, physician assistant studies, occupational therapy, kinesiology, organizational leadership training, a unique doctoral program in physical therapy, and the Latina and African-American Summer Academies for high school girls; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stevens has a passion for the education and advancement of women as evidenced by her exceptional leadership of numerous capital campaigns and scholarship initiatives, including the recently completed forty million

dollar "Striding Forward Campaign" at the College of St. Mary, allowing for growth in the endowment, new scholarships, and the building of an addition to its fitness center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stevens made affordability and transparency a high priority by rolling all student fees into the tuition rate so students know and better understand the cost of attending the College of Saint Mary and slashing undergraduate tuition rates to enable students to borrow less and have more affordable access to higher education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stevens will retire in May 2023 after twenty-five years of distinguished service as the longest-serving President of the College of Saint Mary in Omaha; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stevens serves on several local, state, and national boards, including the Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska Educational Finance Authority, Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges Foundation, the Tri-Faith Initiative, and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stevens has been honored by a multitude of organizations for her leadership and dedication to the education of women, including The Women's Fund of Greater Omaha, the Aksarben Foundation, the League of Women Voters, Girls Inc., Essential Pregnancy Services, Women's Center for Advancement, Mercy High School, Roncalli High School, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Dr. Maryanne Stevens as a recipient of the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award and extends its appreciation for her service to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. Maryanne Stevens.