

BY: Senator RIVERA

COMMENDING Monroe College upon the occasion of being ranked the top regional university for exceeding predicted graduation rates by **U.S. News & World Report**

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those exemplary institutions of higher education within the State of New York for their commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Monroe College upon the occasion of being ranked the top regional university for exceeding predicted graduation rates by **U.S. News & World Report**; the designation was reported in the news magazine's "2014 Best Colleges" rankings; and

WHEREAS, Founded in the Bronx, New York, in 1933, Monroe College is a nationally ranked private institution of higher learning, offering Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs; it opened its New Rochelle campus in 1983, operates a small campus in St. Lucia, and has about 600 students enrolled online; and

WHEREAS, Monroe College was recognized by **U.S. News & World Report** as the regional university with the largest difference between predicted and actual graduation rates; based on the students served, their test scores, and other key factors, Monroe College's estimated graduation rate was 27 percent, but the actual rate was 65 percent, 38 points above what was predicted; this ranked Monroe first among Regional Universities that performed above expectations; and

WHEREAS, Schools with an actual graduation rate that exceeds the predicted rate are seen as boosting student achievement and, as a result, perform better in the rankings; Monroe College's outstanding commitment to its students is evidenced in the comprehensive support system it offers students, including personal counselors assigned to students at varying stages in their academic journeys, as well as the flexibility offered to adult students who face the everyday challenges of juggling work and family; and

WHEREAS, Monroe College was also cited as having one of the best online bachelor's degree programs in the nation, one of five programs that made the list in the New York metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, According to the New York State Education Department's Office of Research and Information Systems, Monroe College graduates more minority students than any other college in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Monroe College, along with its President, Stephen Jerome, is deserving of the highest commendation for its evident commitment to the well-being of its students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Monroe College upon the occasion of being ranked the top regional university for exceeding predicted graduation rates by **U.S. News & World Report** fully confident that in its future, it will enjoy the same success which has so characterized its past; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Stephen Jerome, President, Monroe College.