



Resolution

New Jersey State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

DR. A. ZACHARY YAMBA

Whereas, Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, currently the longest serving president in New Jersey's higher education system, a Diamond Life Member of the NAACP, and a recipient of the prestigious *Centennial Community Leadership Award* from the New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP, is retiring after a 30-year tenure as the fifth President of Essex County College in Newark, New Jersey; and

Whereas, Dr. Yamba was appointed President of Essex County College in May 1980 after having been at Essex County College since it opened 41-years ago; prior to his appointment as President, he served as Director of Humanities and Dean of Faculty; and

Whereas, Dr. Yamba's exceptional leadership at Essex County College has helped distinguish it as one of the nation's premiere community colleges serving as a model for two-year colleges; under Dr. Yamba's leadership, the College's service to the African American community has been unfathomable and awe-inspiring, as he has set an example for organizations like the NAACP, advocating for and providing equal educational opportunities to Africans in Diaspora; and

Whereas, during Dr. Yamba's 30-years of service as President, Essex County College has experienced unprecedented stability and growth, now making it a leader in the community college system because the College has significantly expanded its operation with the addition of a Gymnasium/Child Development Center, Center for Technology, the Clara E. Dasher Student Center at the main Newark campus, a branch campus in West Caldwell, and the Essex County College Police Academy in Cedar Grove; and

Whereas, Dr. Yamba's advocacy of excellence and opportunity in higher education includes more than a decade of service as a commissioner of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; he is also a founding member of the Presidents' Round Table, an affiliate of the National Council on Black American Affairs of the American Association of Community Colleges; his numerous community affiliations include serving on the boards of the Victoria Foundation, Newark Downtown Core Redevelopment Corporation, Christ the King Prep School in Newark, Two Hundred Club of Essex County, and the American Conference on Diversity; he is a 2008 inductee into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame; he is the recipient of the prestigious Michael Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award from Phi Theta Kappa; Dr. Yamba holds the title of Regent Emeritus on the Board of Regents of Seton Hall University, his alma mater, which has also inducted him into its Athletic Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, Dr. Yamba, born in Ghana, came to the United States in the 1960's, and became an All-American soccer player for Seton Hall University; he holds a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Pacific States and Brunel Universities in London; he holds both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Seton Hall University; he has also done postgraduate work at the University of Kansas and Laval University in Canada; in 1997 and 2003, respectively, he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Seton Hall and the University for Development Studies in Ghana; in 2006, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Rutgers University; therefore be it

RESOLVED that on Friday, December 4, 2009, at the Retirement Celebration for Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, the Officers, the Executive Committee, Chairs of Committees, the Youth and College Division and members of all Branches in the New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP extend congratulations and the hope that our distinguished educator will continue to offer support and guidance to America's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

James E. Harris
President

December 4, 2009

Approved: November 7, 2009


Joyce Mollineaux
State Secretary

December 4, 2009