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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Gregory C. James, who passed away on October 20, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory James was born on February 29, 1956, in Chicago; he lived in Pennsylvania, New York, Texas, Ohio, and Massachusetts before returning to Chicago; upon his return, he became a member of Trinity United Church of Christ, where he was a gifted tenor in the sanctuary choir; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory James earned his master's degree in education from Southern Illinois University and his Ed.D. from Grambling State University in Louisiana; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory James served as the assistant vice president of student affairs at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines; he began his career at Oakton in August of 2005 as the college's dean of students; in June of 2009, he was promoted to Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs/Office of Access, Equity, and Diversity - the first to hold the position; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory James' commitment to social justice and anti-bias work made him a leader at Oakton Community College and throughout the region; he was regularly called upon

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1 to speak at events and conferences about his work; he also
2 served on Oakton's Master Plan Steering Committee and on the
3 steering committee of the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns
4 in Higher Education; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory James was the recipient of numerous
6 awards and grants, including the Equity Award from the Illinois
7 Community College Trustee Association, the Innovation Award
8 from the Illinois Council of Community College Administration,
9 the Pan African Connection Grant, the Office of Access, Equity,
10 and Diversity Grant, and the Pan African Summit Grant; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Gregory James is survived by his life partner,
12 David DeCoursey-James; his daughter, Maurionna Minor; his
13 father, Rev. Dr. Silas James; his brothers, Lt. Col. Cedric C.
14 Minor-ret., Daryl K. Minor, Kevin D. Minor, and Maurice D.
15 Minor and their spouses; his many nieces and nephews; and a
16 host of extended family and friends; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
19 his family and friends, the passing of Dr. Gregory C. James;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of Dr. Gregory James as an expression

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1 of our sympathy.