



HR1164

LRB100 22328 ALS 41183 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Dr. Georgia Costello on  
4 the occasion of her retirement as President of Southwestern  
5 Illinois College; and

6           WHEREAS, Appointed in 2008, Dr. Costello became the first  
7 former student and the first woman to be named President of  
8 Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) since it opened in 1946;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, Under Dr. Costello's leadership, Southwestern  
11 Illinois College secured \$19.1 million in state funds to  
12 complete the LEED Gold-certified Liberal Arts Complex, \$8.3  
13 million in grants to improve vehicle, bike, and pedestrian  
14 traffic at the Belleville Campus, and \$6.1 million in state  
15 funds to build an Early Childhood Education Center; the College  
16 became a founding member of the community-college driven  
17 Illinois Green Economy Network, which secured a grant to  
18 construct one of three regional sustainability centers at the  
19 Belleville Campus; the College also helped the Illinois Green  
20 Economy Network secure a \$20 million U.S. Department of Labor  
21 Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career  
22 Training Grant, along with a \$13 million second round split  
23 equally among 19 colleges; these funds helped SWIC create one

1 of the finest advanced manufacturing training facilities at any  
2 U.S. college on its Sam Wolf Granite City Campus; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Costello helped the school maintain its  
4 commitment to Information Technology and provided students  
5 with state-of-the-art tools to excel in the classroom, via  
6 online instruction and beyond; SWIC also received the  
7 Governor's Award for Excellence in Education for veterans  
8 programs, including designation as a VetSuccess on Campus  
9 school, just one of 94 nationwide to host a full-time U.S.  
10 Department of Veteran Affairs counselor on campus; SWIC serves  
11 the largest population of student veterans of any Illinois  
12 public institution; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Costello first attended what was then known as  
14 Belleville Area College in the fall of 1967; she earned 60-plus  
15 credit hours while starting her family, then transferred to  
16 McKendree College (University) to finish her bachelor's degree  
17 in 1977; in 1994, she earned her master's degree from Southern  
18 Illinois University Carbondale, where she also received her  
19 doctorate in 2007; and

20 WHEREAS, Before her tenure at SWIC, Dr. Costello taught in  
21 Belleville Grade School District 118 from 1977 until 1990; she  
22 later served as Dean of Students and Principal of Central  
23 Junior High School and then as Assistant Superintendent at the

1 St. Clair County Regional Office of Education from 2000 until  
2 2005; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Costello has served on many boards and  
4 committees, including the Illinois Governor's Education  
5 Accountability and Education Excellence Task Forces, the St.  
6 Clair County Child Advocacy Board, the Board of Trustees at  
7 McKendree University, and the Advisory Board at United Missouri  
8 Bank; she is co-chair of the Higher Education Council for the  
9 St. Louis Regional Chamber and is on the St. Louis Zoo's Board  
10 of Directors; she is an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Girl  
11 Scouts of America and the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement  
12 Award from the Boy Scouts of America; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia Costello is the daughter of the late  
14 George H. and the late Eloise Cockrum; she and her husband,  
15 former U.S. Representative Jerry Costello, are the parents of  
16 Illinois State Representative Jerry (Lori) Costello II, Gina  
17 Costello, and John (Lindsay) Costello and the grandparents of  
18 Jay, Jerry III, Victoria, Austin, Rorey, Danielle, Ireland,  
19 John Patrick Jr., and Camryn Rose; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
22 congratulate Dr. Georgia Costello on the occasion of her  
23 retirement as President of Southwestern Illinois College, and

1 we commend her leadership and dedication to her students; and  
2 be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to Dr. Costello as an expression of our esteem and  
5 respect.