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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate David Sam, Ph.D. on the  
4 occasion of his retirement as president of Elgin Community  
5 College (ECC); and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Sam began serving as the eighth president of  
7 ECC on February 12, 2007; during his tenure, academic  
8 excellence, student success and completion, reduction of  
9 student loan debt, community outreach, partnerships, workforce  
10 development, equity, diversity and inclusion, and financial  
11 prudence have become the hallmarks of his presidency, and he  
12 has directed ECC towards achieving extraordinary results  
13 through collaborating with a visionary and engaged board of  
14 trustees, an outstanding and dedicated faculty, and a  
15 competent and committed team of administrators and staff; and

16           WHEREAS, Under Dr. Sam's leadership, ECC was named one of  
17 25 semifinalists, out of 1,047 community colleges nationwide,  
18 for the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, and  
19 the college was previously named an Aspen Top 150 College in  
20 2015, 2019, and 2021; he oversaw ECC joining the student  
21 success initiative Achieving the Dream in 2009, earning the  
22 institution a Leader College status from 2012 to 2022 before  
23 then receiving the designation of a Leader College of

1 Distinction; he led ECC's efforts to pass a \$178 million  
2 capital referendum in 2009, transforming the campus into a  
3 modern, state-of-the-art learning environment; his guidance  
4 has been essential towards securing financial stability and  
5 sound fiscal management for ECC, earning the college an Aaa  
6 rating from Moody's Ratings since 2009 and an AA+ rating from  
7 Standard & Poor's since 2010; and

8 WHEREAS, Before joining ECC, Dr. Sam served as president  
9 of North Harris College in Texas for six-and-a-half years;  
10 previously, he served as dean of the Community & Technical  
11 College and a social science and business management professor  
12 at the University of Akron, Ohio; prior to that, he served as  
13 vice president for Faculty and Instruction at Harrisburg Area  
14 Community College in Pennsylvania, as acting vice president of  
15 Academic Affairs and dean of Natural and Social Sciences at  
16 Mott Community College in Michigan, and as assistant  
17 professor/coordinator of International Studies at College of  
18 DuPage in Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Sam, a native of Ghana, West Africa, received  
20 his Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Political Science, and  
21 History from Illinois State University (ISU); he earned a  
22 Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy and a Ph.D. in  
23 International Economic and Political Relations from Tufts  
24 University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; he also

1 obtained an MBA in Finance and Marketing from Northwestern  
2 University's Kellogg School of Management, a Juris Doctor from  
3 the University of Akron School of Law, and a Master of Laws  
4 (LLM) in Energy Law and Policy at the University of Dundee,  
5 United Kingdom; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Sam serves on the boards of directors for the  
7 St. Charles Bank & Trust, Alignment Collaborative for  
8 Education, the Golden Corridor Family YMCA, and the Elgin Area  
9 Chamber of Commerce, holding the office of chair from May 2015  
10 to January 2017; he is an Illinois Phi Theta Kappa  
11 Presidential Ambassador and an active member of the Rotary  
12 Club of Elgin; he also belongs to the Illinois Council of  
13 Community College Presidents, serving as secretary/treasurer  
14 from 2021 to 2022, vice chair from 2022 to 2023, and chair from  
15 2023 to 2024; as a licensed attorney, he is a member of the  
16 District of Columbia Bar, the Energy Bar Association, and the  
17 American Bar Association; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Sam has received a number of accolades,  
19 including being inducted into the ISU College of Arts &  
20 Sciences Hall of Fame, being named a Rotary International  
21 Club's Paul Harris Fellow, and receiving the Phi Theta Kappa's  
22 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, Judson University's D.  
23 Ray Wilson Volunteer Service Award, the Illinois Community  
24 College Trustees Association's Gary W. Davis Ethical

1 Leadership Award, the Elgin Cosmopolitan Club's Distinguished  
2 Service Award, and an Illinois Consortium for International  
3 Studies and Programs Member Emeritus Award; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Sam has left an indelible mark on ECC, and of  
5 the more than 68,167 degrees and certificates ECC has awarded  
6 since its founding in 1949, approximately 55.9% have been  
7 awarded during his tenure; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
9 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
10 we congratulate David Sam, Ph.D. on his retirement as  
11 president of Elgin Community College (ECC), and we commend him  
12 for his exemplary service and dedication to the students,  
13 faculty, staff, and community of ECC; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to Dr. Sam as an expression of our esteem and  
16 respect.