



**THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
IN RECOGNITION & PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
SENATOR DONALD J. GAETZ**

WHEREAS, SENATOR DONALD J. GAETZ HAS DILIGENTLY, AND WITH DEDICATION, SERVED THE CITIZENS OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA SINCE 2006 AS FLORIDA STATE SENATOR; AND

WHEREAS, DURING HIS TENURE, SENATOR GAETZ HAS SERVED IN MANY CHAIRMAN POSITIONS IN THE FLORIDA SENATE, AND AS THE FLORIDA SENATE PRESIDENT 2012-14; AND

WHEREAS, SENATOR GAETZ SPONSORED SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATION IN 2011 TO CREATE AND FUND THE REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE DEEP HORIZON OIL SPILL WHICH OCCURRED IN THE GULF OF MEXICO, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISTRIBUTE \$30 MILLION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES TO BUSINESSES IN THE EIGHT DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COUNTIES IN THE REGION DAMAGED BY THE OIL SPILL; AND

WHEREAS, SENATOR GAETZ HAS SUPPORTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION AND ACROSS THE STATE BY SUPPORTING \$10 MILLION ANNUALLY IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FLORIDA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NETWORK AND THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT; AND

WHEREAS, SENATOR GAETZ HAS DEMONSTRATED FUNDING SUPPORT FOR MANY PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA, INCLUDING THE JOINT DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP) PROGRAM, THE JOINT DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM, THE PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT PROGRAM, THE SUPPLY CHAIN LOGISTICS PROGRAM, THE CYBER SECURITY PROGRAM, MULTIPLE INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS, THE FLORIDA VETS ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAM, AND THE MILITARY AND VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER; AND

WHEREAS, SENATOR GAETZ HAS SUPPORTED NEW BUILDINGS AND RENOVATIONS ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA CAMPUS OVER THESE PAST TEN YEARS FOR THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, INCLUDING THE MOST RECENT LABORATORY SCIENCES ANNEX PROJECT; AND

WHEREAS, SENATOR GAETZ HAS SPONSORED MANY PIECES OF SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATION, INCLUDING THE CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION ACT, WHICH LINKS STUDENTS TO THE ECONOMY THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY SKILLS AND THE CREATION OF PERFORMANCE BASED FUNDING SYSTEMS, IN WHICH INSTITUTIONS ARE MEASURED ON QUALITY AND IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA THROUGH HIGHER RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES, AS WELL AS THE EMPLOYMENT OUTCOME FOR THOSE STUDENTS; AND

WHEREAS, SENATOR GAETZ RETIRES FROM THE FLORIDA SENATE NOVEMBER 2016; AND

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES, MEETING THIS DAY, MARCH 24, 2016, HEREBY RECOGNIZES AND COMMENDS SENATOR GAETZ FOR HIS DECADE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA AND THE STATE OF FLORIDA;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION IS INCLUDED IN THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING AND A COPY THEREOF PRESENTED TO SENATOR GAETZ AS A TOKEN OF THE BOARD'S APPRECIATION.

**LEWIS BEAR, JR., CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA**

**DR. JUDY A. BENSE, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA**