

Approved by the Board of Trustees
March 11, 2021

Board Meeting
March 11, 2021

RESOLUTION FOR JILL B. SMART

In your six years as a member of the Board of Trustees, you have shown the same love and passion for the University of Illinois that you first brought to Urbana-Champaign as an undergraduate.

Both the deep connection you have forged with the U of I System over more than four decades and your long, successful career trace back to your parents, who nurtured you, inspired you, and encouraged you to attend the very best college. As a high school senior, you applied only to UIUC, and became the first in your family to earn a college degree.

From that experience, you have emerged as a champion for first-generation students, for access and affordability that opens our doors wide to every deserving student, and for ensuring our universities maintain the world-class excellence that will unlock their dreams.

You will be remembered for your concern for students and your hopes for their future, which you expressed so eloquently in your role as Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

Since earning your bachelor's degree in business administration, you also have served new generations of students as a role model – a real-world example of the

limitless heights that are within reach with a U of I degree. You have served your chosen field at the highest levels, as president of the National Academy of Human Resources and as chief human resources officer for Accenture, where your tenure saw a tripling of the Fortune Global 500 firm's workforce to nearly 300,000.

As an alumna, you also have shared your time and talents to help the students following in your footsteps. You have regularly spent time in classrooms at the Gies College of Business and served as a member of the Dean's Business Council, the Advisory Council of Illinois Business Consulting, and Women in Business & Philanthropy. That first-hand commitment to students also led you to teaching, as an adjunct professor in the School of Labor and Employment Relations.

You have also given generously of your time as a longtime member of the University of Illinois Alumni Association. Those ties endured after you became a trustee, and you regularly attending meetings of the UIAA board to share system-wide news and show your support for our nearly 800,000 alumni around the world.

Your passion for your alma mater includes athletics and your regular presence at events supports your legitimate claim that you are at least in the running for world's greatest Illini fan.

The U of I System and its universities, faculty and staff and students have benefitted greatly from the human touch you have brought to all the Board's deliberations during your years as a trustee. You were diligent in exploring issues that came before the Board, and asked questions to make sure all sides were considered before any action was taken. The Board of Trustees is grateful that you found time in your busy schedule to

share your leadership and dedication to ensure that the U of I System is a nurturing place for all.

You and your husband Steve, a UIC alumnus, have shown a remarkable loyalty and commitment to the U of I System through both the time and gifts you have shared over the years. Your generous financial support for scholarships has benefited many students, including those in Gies College of Business.

Your colleagues, fellow alumni, and many friends across the U of I System will miss your dedication, compassion, insight, and devotion to making the U of I System a global leader.

At this time, the Board members, joined by President Killeen, as well as the University officers, faculty members, students, and staff members wish to pay tribute to you for your valuable service and extend best wishes to you, Steve, and your family.

The Board of Trustees directs that this resolution be incorporated in the minutes of today's meeting to become a part of the official public record, and that a suitable copy be given you as a permanent reminder of the esteem in which you are held.