

Board Meeting
March 12, 2020

RESOLUTION FOR DONALD J. EDWARDS

To: Donald J. Edwards

Over the more than 30 years since your graduation from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, your illustrious career has been the source of great pride for your alma mater. Your exceptional success in business and as founder of a leading private equity investment firm has made you a role model for new generations of students, showing them the heights that are within reach with a U of I degree. Your extensive and wide-ranging efforts to serve the community have provided another crucial guidepost, reflecting the civic spirit that we hope every graduate of the U of I System carries into the world.

Since 2017, you have shared your time and talents to give back to the U of I System at the very highest level, as a member of our Board of Trustees. Throughout your term, including your two years as chair, you have been a champion for our universities, always encouraging us to build on our long, rich legacy of service to students, the people of Illinois, and the public good.

You and your wife, Anne, another distinguished Urbana-Champaign graduate, also are longtime donors and your generosity reached historic levels recently through a \$10 million gift that is the largest ever by a U of I trustee. It will fund

meaningful, life-changing scholarships for high-achieving students at Gies College of Business, where you and Anne earned your degrees. It will help fund a major renovation of the Illini basketball practice facility and support the Illini men's golf team, where you were a four-year letter winner as an undergraduate. And it will fund our Discovery Partners Institute and Illinois Innovation Network, pioneering initiatives that will stimulate our state's economy and help write the next chapters in the U of I System's legacy.

As President Tim Killeen said after Governor J.B. Pritzker announced your extraordinary gift, "I can't think of a better testimonial for IIN and DPI and for our programs in Urbana than the support of Don and Anne, who have seen our operations from every angle and know firsthand the power they hold to drive progress."

We are gratified by your confidence, loyalty, and generosity. Your support will lift the fortunes of our students and our state for generations, building on the excellence at a scale that defines the U of I System. You serve as an inspiration to all who share your bedrock belief that our universities hold the key to a better tomorrow.

The Board of Trustees, together with the President of the University, our chancellors, and other administrative leaders join in this expression of our deep appreciation to you, Anne and your children – Alexandra, Annabel, and Danny.

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