

Board Meeting
March 15, 2012

AWARD THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION
TO MICHÈLE M. THOMPSON

On July 18, 1973, the Trustees Distinguished Service Medallion was created to recognize individuals whose contributions to the growth and development of the University of Illinois, through extraordinary service or benefaction, have been of unusual significance.

Today, the Board is proud and honored to add Michèle M. Thompson to our esteemed roster of medallion recipients.

Dr. Thompson served the University with distinction for more than three decades, and her unending integrity, grace, and loyalty advanced our richly deserved standing as a world leader in education, innovation, and service to society.

She began her distinguished University career in 1977 as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, handling affirmative action concerns of faculty, staff, and students on the Urbana-Champaign campus. She later moved on to high-ranking positions in the Office of the President, with responsibilities that ranged from developing employment policies to critical initiatives such as long-range energy planning.

During those years, she played a key role in University history, serving as chief of staff for the committee that recommended consolidation of the University's two Chicago campuses – the Chicago Circle campus and the Medical Center campus. The

merger was approved by the Board on November 19, 1981, and created the University of Illinois at Chicago, a world-class institution that continues to grow in enrollment, prestige, and academic and research excellence.

On August 21, 1990, Dr. Thompson began her appointment as Secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University, and served until her retirement on January 31, 2012.

Dr. Thompson was keenly aware of her critical role as Secretary – supporting the Board and Administration in their governance of the University, interpreting Board policy to the public, acting as the University’s official record keeper, and serving as an advisor to the President.

Her duties were as endless as the legions of people she served, a list that included four University Presidents, dozens of Trustees, and untold faculty, staff, students, and citizens who did business with the Board during her 21 years as Secretary.

Dr. Thompson made it look easy, tackling each task with remarkable skill, a tireless work ethic, a steady hand, and a gentle smile.

In gratitude for her invaluable contributions, the Board of Trustees takes great pride in presenting the Trustees’ Distinguished Service Medallion to Michèle M. Thompson, a dedicated, admired, and beloved member of the University of Illinois family.