

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
January 21, 2021

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Board Meeting  
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## RESOLUTION FOR EDWARD L. MCMILLAN

For more than four decades, you have generously shared your time, your talents, and your passion to give new generations of University of Illinois students the same life-changing opportunities that launched your long, distinguished career as a global leader in agribusiness.

You have been a proud ambassador for our universities, a tireless champion for student access and affordability, and an unwavering voice reminding us to always keep reaching even higher and to strive for excellence in everything we do.

You have stepped up to help guide us in roles that run the gamut of our missions, from academics and alumni relations to fundraising, research, and economic development. At every turn, you have led with a steady hand, a thoughtful approach, a gentle touch, and a ready smile.

It was our good fortune that your parents, tenant farmers in western Illinois, sacrificed and encouraged you and your brother, Ken, to study at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Your family's ties have continued to deepen ever since. Your son and daughter-in-law also attended UIUC, and your granddaughter is a current student, in the class of 2023.

Since earning your degree in 1969, your strong bonds have endured with faculty, staff, and alumni in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). Your real-world experience has helped ensure ACES programming

remains leading-edge, and your career achievements have made you a role model for students following in your footsteps – showing them the heights that are within reach with a U of I degree.

During more than a decade as a member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, you helped steer the U of I System through some of the most difficult challenges of its more than 150-year history. From a global pandemic to a protracted budget impasse that siphoned away crucial state funding, we have weathered every challenge and emerged stronger, with our excellence intact.

Your leadership during two terms as board chairman reflected the commitment to students and excellence that you hold so dear. It brought the start of a five-year tuition freeze for in-state students that was the longest in a half-century, along with the ambitious Strategic Framework that has spurred the U of I System's remarkable growth over the last five years. Throughout your two terms on the board, you also brought a genuine appreciation for the people who are at the heart of our standing as a world leader, and you celebrated every positive achievement that our administrators, faculty, students, and alumni realized, encouraging the pursuit in excellence at every turn. Your counsel and support have helped guide the U of I System ever closer to its goal of becoming the best of the best – the global model for higher education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In the early development of the Research Park at UIUC, campus leadership turned to you to become a member of the original Board of Managers because of your expertise in the business world, and you have continued to serve on the Board throughout your time as a Trustee. Your high-level business skills also served the U of I System's economic development efforts during your years as a member and chairman of Illinois

Ventures, a premier early-stage investment firm that supports new businesses that grow from our research.

As a member of the University of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors, you supported the private fundraising that makes the U of I System a cut above, and you guided programs to maintain lifelong connections with graduates as a member and chair of the University of Illinois Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Through it all you have truly been a servant leader, a listener, and consensus-builder who approaches every problem with an open mind, seeking to foster collaboration and the best possible solutions.

Your colleagues across the system will greatly miss your integrity, sincerity, curiosity, empathy, wisdom, good humor, loyalty and dedicated service.

The President and the University officers, the faculty members, students, and staff members join with the Board in this tribute to you, and in extending best wishes to you, your wife, Judy, 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 and affection in which you are held.