RECOMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD, SIUC

Summary

The President, on the recommendation of the SIUC Chancellor, requests Board of Trustees approval to bestow the Distinguished Service Award on Mr. Harvey Welch, Jr. at the May 2018 SIUC commencement.

Rationale for Adoption

A native of Centralia, Illinois, Harvey Welch, Jr. earned his bachelor's degree in education in 1955. Mr. Welch was the first African American on the SIU basketball team, playing from 1951-1954 and also was the first black student to complete the ROTC program. Upon graduation, Mr. Welch began a 20 year career in the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1975 as a colonel, becoming one of the first three African Americans to earn that rank. Returning to SIU in 1975, Mr. Welch was the first African American to serve as Dean of Students. He ultimately became the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, retiring from that position in 2000.

Mr. Welch has remained active on campus and in the larger Carbondale community. A dedicated public servant, Mr. Welch has served many community organizations in leadership roles, including the Carbondale Park District Board, the Southern Illinois Golf Association, Carbondale Rotary International, Southern Illinois Regional Social Services and Lutheran Social Services. He served more than a decade as president of the Carbondale Park District, during which time the city saw its first public outdoor swimming pool open. Mr. Welch allows SIU to raise scholarship funds in his name through an annual golf tournament and actively participates in fundraising initiatives to help students.

Mr. Welch has earned numerous awards and honors, including being inducted as a member of the SIU Athletic Hall of Fame and named as the 2007 Citizen of the Year by the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce. He also earned a master's degree from SIU in 1958 and completed graduate level work at Indiana University and Wright State University. He also took all his course work for a PhD from SIU Carbondale.

Constituency Involvement

Mr. Welch's nomination was reviewed by SIUC’s Committee for Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Service Awards. The Chancellor of Southern Illinois University Carbondale recommends this matter to the President.
Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University in regular meeting assembled, That: the Distinguished Service Award be presented to Harvey Welch, Jr. at the May 2018 commencement, or some commencement thereafter, of Southern Illinois University Carbondale.