

RESOLUTION NUMBER 46

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that the annual *Salute to Women in Leadership* will take place on Friday, May 9 and Dr. Celerstine Briggs Johnson will be the recipient of the Educational Leadership Award. The luncheon gives recognition to women who excel in their work in a professional, civic, or social capacity in our region; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is the associate vice-provost for enrollment management at Saint Louis University. She is responsible for learning assistance activities for university students and selected high school students, and for developing, coordinating and encouraging campus-wide retention initiatives to the various colleges and schools. In this capacity, she serves as convener of the Retention Management Committee which acts as a clearinghouse for campus-wide retention; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is a national leader in the effort to promote educational opportunity for potential first-generation college, low-income students through the Trio programs. She has served as president of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C., as well as of the regional association MAEOPP. The association in recent years has offered ten scholarships in her name; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson has oversight for three Trio programs: Talent Search for middle and high school students; Student Support Services for first generation college students and the Ronald E. McNair Scholars program for preparing undergraduates for graduate school. Dr. Johnson serves as chair of the steering committee of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship. The diversity scholarship is a four-year award offered to approximately 120 students yearly who exemplify the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson obtained a bachelor's degree in education from Harris Teachers College, a master's degree in teaching mathematics from Webster University and a doctorate in higher education administration from Saint Louis University. She has received many awards including the Saint Louis University Woman of the Year; the Sammy Davis Yes I Can Education Award; the Saint Louis University Grantsmanship Award; the Dr. Arnold L. Mitchem Lifetime Achievement Award; Who's Who in black St. Louis, the Walter O. Mason Educational Opportunity Award; the Sumner High School Hall of Fame Award; Diamond Honoree Award from the American College Personnel Association and, most recently, the YWCA's Racial Justice Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is a member of the St. Louis alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, a member of the Education Bureau of the Charmaine Chapman Society for the United Way, the past chair of the Board of Directors of the Legend Singers and a Sunday school teacher at Christ Memorial Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is the mother of two adult children- Caryle Ellen Johnson of Chicago and Warren Kent Johnson of Belleville, Illinois and is the widow of Walter R. Johnson, Jr.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Dr. Celerstine Briggs Johnson on her selfless dedication to helping others and for her continuous effort to make a difference in the St. Louis community and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 9th day of May, 2008 by:

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen
Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

Adopted this the 9th day of May, 2008 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen