

RESOLUTION

Honoring

Dr. Rod Paige

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), pays tribute and recognizes **Dr. Rod Paige**, Interim President of Jackson State University, for the outstanding leadership he has provided to the university and the tremendous difference he has made to the institution, its faculty, staff, students and alumni; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Paige** accepted the call to serve Jackson State University, not to add yet another accomplishment to his list of accolades, but out of a deep affection for the university, his fellow alumni, the faculty and staff, and the students; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Paige** has provided stability to the campus and launched the Presidential Challenge, raising more than \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Paige** is a native Mississippian and alumnus of Jackson State University who has devoted his professional life to education, serving as Dean of Education at Texas Southern University, leading the Houston Independent School District and serving as U.S. Secretary of Education under President George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Paige** was named a Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and continues to serve on numerous boards, including the Fordham Institute, the Strake Foundation and the Blue Cure Foundation; and was inducted into the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Paige** holds a bachelor's degree from Jackson State University and a master's and doctoral degree from Indiana University; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Paige** and his lovely wife, Stephanie Nellons-Paige, an accomplished business leader and vice president of USA Funds' national engagement, have served as role models and mentors for the students, making a difference through their visibility, presence, and openness; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that **Dr. Paige** will therefore be remembered as a leader who made a positive impact on the lives of Jackson State University students of today and tomorrow, the JSU faculty and staff, and the alumni who are proud to call the university their alma mater; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and that a copy be presented to **Dr. Rod Paige** with the affirmation that he will always be remembered for his love for and dedication to Jackson State University.

DONE, this the 15th day of June, 2017



C.D. Smith, President
Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning