



RESOLUTION NO. 306

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Trustees of Bellevue College of Community College District VIII recognizing Gary Locke for his service as Interim President.

WHEREAS, Gary Locke has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication during his tenure as the Interim President for what was to be one year and then extended to three years as he graciously agreed to provide much-needed stability for Bellevue College; and

WHEREAS, Gary Locke's leadership during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic ensured the continuity of operations and provided invaluable steadiness to the entire Bellevue College community; and

WHEREAS, Gary Locke's extensive experience in public administration, finance, and economic policy enabled him to navigate the complex financial landscape created by the COVID-19 pandemic with astuteness and resilience contributing greatly to Bellevue College's financial stability; and

WHEREAS, Gary Locke has consistently exhibited a deep understanding of the importance of education in empowering individuals and strengthening communities, and his advocacy for diversity, equity, and inclusion has had a significant impact on Bellevue College and student success; and

WHEREAS, Gary Locke's unwavering support and instrumental role in the creation of the Online Excellence Teaching Academy resulted in a transformative initiative that empowers educators and enhances the learning experience for students; and

WHEREAS, Gary Locke's decisive actions and strong advocacy at local, state, and federal levels resulted in the acquisition of critical resources and support for Bellevue College, thereby ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality education; and

WHEREAS, Gary Locke's advocacy and petitioning of the state legislature assisted Bellevue College and the entire Washington community and technical college system with gaining fully-funded COLAs, which the CTC system will benefit from for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Gary Locke's commitment to cultivating strong relationships with community partners, industry leaders, and elected officials has strengthened Bellevue College's standing as a leading educational institution and has paved the way for future opportunities and collaborations; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Gary Locke's exceptional contributions, it is fitting to honor his legacy by dedicating a significant space within Bellevue College's campus in his name, as a lasting tribute to his transformative leadership and enduring commitment to the institution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Bellevue College hereby expresses its deepest gratitude to Gary Locke for his exemplary service as the Interim President.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees celebrates the naming of the ballroom within Bellevue College's Student Success Center as the "Gary F. Locke Ballroom" in honor of his outstanding contributions to the institution.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED: June 20, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Merisa Heu-Weller', written over a horizontal line.

Merisa Heu-Weller, Chair
Board of Trustees, Bellevue College District VIII