Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Honoring Dr. Ruben Armiñana For His Many Accomplishments During His Twenty Four Years Of Transformative Leadership At Sonoma State University

Whereas, Dr. Ruben Armiñana was born in Cuba and was raised in Texas. He earned an A.A. degree in economics and political science from Hill College, and a B.A. degree in economics, political science and Spanish and an M.A. degree in Latin American economics and political science from the University of Texas in Austin, followed by a Ph.D. in political science from the University of New Orleans; and

Whereas, Dr. Ruben Armiñana has worked for 46 years at several institutions, including Loyola University, New Orleans; the City of New Orleans; WWL-TV in New Orleans; Tulane University, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; in the private sector and at Sonoma State University; and

Whereas, Dr. Ruben Armiñana during his tenure and due to his personal commitment to higher education, the arts, and economic opportunity, has been successful in furthering the academic and co-curricular programs of the University, making Sonoma State University one of the premier campuses in the California State University system; and

Whereas, Dr. Ruben Armiñana has transformed Sonoma State University’s campus and reputation during his tenure, guiding many capital improvement projects which changed the face of the campus, while building the University’s endowment from $3.6 million to more than $44 million today; and

Whereas, in 1995, the California State University approved the Sonoma State University’s plan to require all incoming students to have or have access to a computer, becoming the first CSU to require assured access; and
Whereas, Sonoma State's Wine Business Institute is one of a kind. It is the fastest growing area of the School of Business and Economics, moving into its new home on campus, the Wine Spectator Learning Center, in 2017; and

Whereas, The Engineering Science program has fostered a partnership with tech companies in the North Bay to prepare students for jobs after graduation. The industry supported the creation of the MS in Computer and Engineering Science and later undergraduate programs in engineering science; and

Whereas, The $165-million Green Music Center houses the 1,400-seat Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall, 250-seat Schroeder Hall, and teaching-focused Music Education Hall. Yo-Yo Ma, Wynton Marsalis and Diana Ross are just a few of the notable performers who have graced the stage since its opening in 2012. The Santa Rosa Symphony is the orchestra-in-residence; and

Whereas, The Environmental Technology Center, completed in 2001, is a "building that teaches" by demonstrating how modern construction techniques can allow for a building that consumes less than half of the energy allowed by state building codes. It houses classes in the university's Environmental Studies and Planning department and features a vegetable garden that students harvest and donate to a local food bank; and

Whereas, The two-story, 53,000-square-foot Recreation Center opened in 2004 as a model of sustainability, including a workout area, indoor soccer field, running track, spa, 35-foot climbing wall, aerobics studio, basketball court and more; and

Whereas, Sonoma State’s residential communities Sauvignon, Beaujolais and Tuscany villages were constructed over a 15-year period, doubling the amount of housing on campus to 3,100 beds; and

Whereas, The Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center brought technology into the forefront with its computer lab and Information Technology department, dramatically increased storage capacity for future generations with its automated retrieval system for books and materials; and

Whereas, The three-story, 130,000-square-foot Student Center opened in Nov. 2013 becoming the heart of campus, centralizing dining options, the bookstore, student activities offices, copy and mail shop and multicultural center, and added to campus a 12,000-foot grand ballroom for events and conferences; and

Whereas, The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is a unique learning community for adults ages 50 years older. OLLI offers the very best continuing education with no tests and no grades.
Distinguished SSU faculty and other Bay Area educators enjoy sharing their expertise with OLLI students, whose life experience and intelligence enrich the exchange of ideas. OLLI at SSU is one of over 100 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes nationwide. The program is supported by student fees, donations, and the earnings on an initial endowment generously provided by the Bernard Osher Foundation; and

Whereas, Thanks to Sonoma State University’s Compact For Success program, students at Santa Rosa’s predominantly Latino Lawrence Cook Middle School and Elsie Allen High School have a leg up on the process of going to college with a guaranteed spot at SSU if they meet the basic requirements; and

Whereas, Sonoma State University offers an upper-division program in Ukiah, California leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, with an emphasis on American Studies. The Liberal Studies Ukiah program offers a wide variety of courses from the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences while providing a flexible major through which students may also take courses in other areas of interest.; and

Whereas, The newly formed Center for Environmental Inquiry (CEI), a public-private endeavor that provides research and training opportunities to teach students from K-12 through college about nature and preservation. Sonoma State’s three preserves: Fairfield Osborn Preserve, Los Guillicos Preserve and Galbreath Wildlands Preserve total 4,200 acres. CEI provides lands, facilities, databases, and programs that inspire participation, collaboration, and innovation in education and research.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that Dr. Ruben Armiñana has made innumerable contributions through his leadership which are truly transformative to the educational and cultural opportunities offered to students, faculty, and our community at Sonoma State University; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma is grateful to Dr. Armiñana for his energy, commitment to excellence, his incredible legacy, and congratulates him on the occasion of his retirement from Sonoma State University.

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