

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-3468-21/EX
January 21-22, 2021

**COMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR
LOREN J. BLANCHARD, PH.D.**

- WHEREAS**, as a first-generation college student, Dr. Loren J. Blanchard earned his Master's of Education in Educational Administration and Supervision from McNeese State University and Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Georgia; and
- WHEREAS**, Dr. Blanchard began his career in higher education administration as the provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs at his alma mater Xavier University of Louisiana; and
- WHEREAS**, Dr. Blanchard brought his knowledge and expertise as provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs and vice president for accreditation, leadership, and accountability from the University of Louisiana system to the California State University (CSU) system; and
- WHEREAS**, Dr. Blanchard has served as Executive Vice Chancellor (EVC) for Academic and Students Affairs for the CSU, the largest and most diverse four-year public higher education system in the United States, since 2015; and
- WHEREAS**, EVC Blanchard oversaw educational policy for the 23-campus of the CSU system, guided and supported campus administrators on curricula, program design, and student affairs, and directed Academic and Student Affairs Divisions of more than 150 staff members in 12 departments; and
- WHEREAS**, Loren Blanchard was the quintessential colleague exquisitely focused on improving student achievement and success, particularly for those individuals who came to the CSU from underserved communities. He understood and crafted needed policy changes that would make us more student achievement centered, and he demonstrated the courage, patience and persistence to work with all stakeholders inside and outside the academy to achieve them. He was CSU's inaugural Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, as we realized the necessity to better align all efforts that challenge, support and evaluate students to a high bar of achievement required a holistic and integrated approach; and
- WHEREAS**, EVC Blanchard deftly served the CSU by maintaining a solid vision of success for CSU students, despite the ups and downs of unpredictable budgets and in the face of budget cuts; and

- WHEREAS,** EVC Blanchard led the CSU in several major initiatives such as the Graduation Initiative 2025; and
- WHEREAS,** EVC Blanchard supported the extension of the Wang Family Awards in order to illuminate the indelible link between faculty success and student success; and
- WHEREAS,** EVC Blanchard, although not always agreeing with faculty, discharged his duties as Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs at times during great controversy, while always staying true to his own principles and vision for the CSU; and
- WHEREAS,** EVC Blanchard is fiercely devoted to his family, moving heaven and earth for them, and traveling cross-country in the middle of a pandemic, to ensure his mother's safety, while managing to escape California with only fire, flood, and pandemic in his footprints; and
- WHEREAS,** EVC Blanchard's bold and visionary leadership ensured not only the success of our students, but also expanded the opportunities for them to thrive in the CSU, and emerged as a hallmark of his unwavering commitment to student success that will leave an indelible mark on our great institution; and
- WHEREAS,** EVC Blanchard was known to act with such alacrity that he would arrive sockless to campuses when he was needed; and
- WHEREAS,** EVC Blanchard will be remembered by those who worked closest with him as always being a "Southern Gentleman," a near and dear colleague, champion of the Graduation Initiative 2025, making decisions and leading with courage, a stalwart presence with strength and fortitude with an unyielding commitment to seeing projects through from conception to completion; be it therefore
- RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) commend Executive Vice Chancellor Blanchard for his numerous contributions to the CSU system, his positive interactions with the ASCSU, and dedication to honest academic dialogue on student success; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU thank EVC Loren J. Blanchard for his collegiality, leadership, and dedication to the academic mission and success of the CSU system; and be it further
- RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU offer its best wishes – and plenty of socks - to Loren as he embarks on his new endeavor as President of the University of Houston – Downtown.

Approved by Acclamation – January 21-22, 2021