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TO: Dr. Monty Sullivan
LCTCS President
FROM: Joseph F. Marin
Chief Operations Officer
SUBJECT: Chancellor Emeritus Status for Dr. Thomas R. Warner
DATE: November 5, 2017

FOR BOARD ACTION

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board suspend certain procedural provisions of policy #1.030 "Emeritus Title" and grant the title of Chancellor Emeritus of Nunez Community College to Dr. Thomas R. Warner, effective upon his retirement as Chancellor of Nunez Community College.

Background: Dr. Warner has sixty years of educational work experience both at the secondary and post-secondary level, having also served three terms as state representative for District 104 in St. Bernard Parish from 1988-2000 in various legislative committees, but particularly in the House Committee on Education. However, after seventeen years of service as chancellor of Nunez Community College, Dr. Warner wishes to retire at the end of December 2017 at the age of eighty-two to spend more time with family and friends. The attached letter from the Nunez Community College Foundation outlines the many accomplishments and contributions made by Dr. Tommy Warner and requests that he be provided the distinction of Chancellor Emeritus of Nunez Community College.

Approved for Recommendation to the Board
Dr. Monty Sullivan, President
Date

BIO

Dr. Thomas R. Warner

Chancellor, Nunez Community College

Dr. Thomas R. Warner is a native of the New Orleans area. He is married to the former Mary Ellen Schorr, and they have seven children and 18 grandchildren. His family has always been the foundation around which he has built his life. It is also one of the reasons he has been a proponent of quality education for all residents of our community and the State of Louisiana.

Dr. Warner graduated from Redemptorist High School in 1953 and attended Tulane University from 1953 - 1957. His work in education began after his graduation from Tulane University with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He was a teacher and a coach at Holy Cross High School in New Orleans. He later moved to teaching and coaching at Chalmette High. In 1962, he began working on his Master of Education degree in Administration and Supervision at Tulane University. Upon completion of his master's degree, he became Assistant Principal at Chalmette High in 1967.

Dr. Warner's next appointment was as Director of Curriculum in the St. Bernard Parish School System in 1970. It was during this time that he began working toward a Doctorate of Education with an emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of New Orleans. He earned his Doctorate of Education in 1975 and became the Assistant Superintendent of the St. Bernard Parish School System. During that time, he was a visiting professor at several institutions, including Tulane University, University of New Orleans, and the Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership of the University of San Francisco in California. Within six years, he became Associate Dean of Instruction at Delgado Community College.

Dr. Warner also ran several small businesses and was a State Representative for 13 years having served on House Committees on Retirement, Education and the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay among others.

Dr. Warner was appointed Chancellor of Nunez Community College on September 14, 2000. His philosophy of education is consistent with the stated purpose of the college, which is to meet the diverse needs of the individual and the demands of a democratic and multi-cultural society. Above all, he believes the foundation of education is to provide the individual with lifetime learning through the acquisition of necessary skills in order to have a satisfying career and productive life.

Having survived the aftermath of Hurricane Betsy in 1965, Dr. Warner; his wife, Mary Ellen; members of his faculty and staff; and some of their family members stayed in the Arts, Sciences, & Technology Building on the campus of Nunez Community College during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. They were evacuated by helicopter six days after the storm.

After their evacuation, Dr. Warner and key staff members went to work immediately in temporary offices on the campus of Baton Rouge Community College. Through his diligence and tenacity, and the hard work of faculty and staff, the College was able to begin classes in Slidell, Louisiana, at Slidell High School in the evenings in October of 2005. In addition, the College offered several online courses beginning that October, as well. The main accomplishment of the College was the continuation of the Practical Nursing and EMT classes, within three weeks of the storm, virtually uninterrupted. In fact, 22 of the 26 original "senior" nursing students were able to complete their program in March of 2006.

Because of his heroism during Hurricane Katrina and the accomplishments in reopening the College that he and his staff affected in the 2005 – 2006 academic year, Dr. Thomas R. Warner was awarded the prestigious "2006 President's Leadership Award" by Dr. Walter Bumphus, President of the Louisiana Community & Technical College System. Since then, under his leadership, Dr. Warner has overseen the reconstruction of the Nunez Community College campus buildings and reestablished it as a center of educational excellence serving the educational and workforce needs of St. Bernard Parish and beyond. In September 2017, after having served 17 years as chancellor of the college, Dr. Warner announced his impending retirement at the age of 82 in order to spend more time with family and friends.