

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Michele Johnson, Ph.D., was a graduate of Tacoma's Lincoln High School, holds B.S. and M.A. degrees in Police Science and Administration from Washington State University, earned her Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Management from the University of Oregon and attended the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson committed her life and career to Pierce College; and

WHEREAS, she served for 45 years, including 15 years as a faculty member, 6 years as President of Pierce College Fort Steilacoom and 17 years as Chancellor of the Pierce College District; and

WHEREAS, under her strong leadership Pierce College was selected twice by the prestigious Aspen Institute as a Top 10 finalist for its \$1 million Excellence in Community College prize; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Aspen's recognition, highlights of Dr. Johnson's tenure include Achieving the Dream's prestigious national Leah Meyer Austin and Leader College of Distinction awards for supporting student success, the Military Times Best for Vets awards, the doubling of graduation rates, expansion of state-of-the-art facilities on campuses at Fort Steilacoom and Puyallup, innovative programs across our diverse community including Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and relentless pursuit of the mission to eliminate areas of inequities and to build an inclusive institution; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson was recognized as a Woman of Influence by the Business Examiner in its first selection in 1999, was named one of 20 people to watch in the new century by The News Tribune in 2000, and was named CEO of the Pacific Region by the Association of Community College Trustees in 2016; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career she proved to be a collaborative leader building partnerships with other institutions of higher education, K-12 school districts, business and industry, and community-based organizations; and

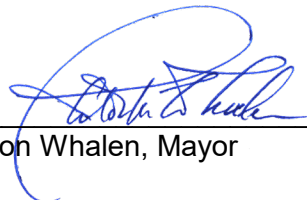
WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is active in the community serving on the boards of the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Metro Parks Foundation, the Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation, and the Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board and is a member of Tacoma Rotary 8.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lakewood City Council hereby congratulates

MICHELE JOHNSON, PH.D.,

on her retirement and expresses our deepest gratitude and most heartfelt appreciation for the past 45 years of service she has given to Pierce College and the lasting impact she has made on so many lives in the Lakewood community.

PROCLAIMED this 5th day of December, 2022.



Jason Whalen, Mayor