



VCU

Faculty Senate

**Virginia Commonwealth University Faculty Senate Resolution
For Dr. Wanda Mitchell**

Whereas, Dr. Wanda Mitchell came to VCU with over 30 years of experience in Higher education and became, the Inaugural Vice President of the VCU Office for Diversity in 2012, and;

Whereas, Dr. Mitchell was a national leader on Diversity and Inclusion and understanding the needs of the university, Dr. Mitchell changed the title of the Office, to the Office of Inclusive Excellence, and;

Whereas, Dr. Mitchell established the Inclusive Learning Council made of all Chairs and Directors of Diversity from each Unit and larger departments; the Council of Inclusive Excellence, which is made up of major administrators and leaders within the University; and Dr. Mitchell established Building Inclusive Communities, a peer facilitation process that fosters effective interaction across a range of similarities and differences that help support the University community in creating an engaged, diverse, and inclusive campus, and;

Whereas, under Dr. Mitchell's leadership, Diversity initiatives and goals were integrated within the Virginia Commonwealth University Strategic plan known as Quest for Distinction, as well as, she began the process of establishing a new 2017-2022 Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Action Plan, and;

Whereas, Dr. Wanda Mitchell believed and advocated that Diversity and inclusion should be expressed in words and actions and fully believed that all members of the community should be valued no matter their race, religion, disability, gender expression, political affiliation, age, national or ethnic origin, and immigration status.

Therefore, the Faculty Senate of Virginia Commonwealth University recognizes the significant contributions of the late Dr. Wanda S. Mitchell. The Faculty Senate mourns the lost of such a generous, forward thinking, and valued leader of the Community, who was supportive and highly engaged with VCU Faculty Senate. We will miss her.

Presented to the Faculty Senate, September 5, 2017 for a vote.