

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION

CATHERINE SMITH

WHEREAS, Dr. Catherine Smith has dedicated 25 years to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), coming to the MDE in January 1986 as a consultant in Higher Education Management, working on university data in enrollments, degrees, faculty, financial statistics and equity and on policy regarding minority access to higher education, and on university appropriations issues; and

WHEREAS, In 1991 Dr. Smith became the Employability Skills Assessment Coordinator and in 1997 became the coordinator for Test Development in MEAP, served as Acting Supervisor of MEAP during 1991 and 1992, during which time her research on portfolio assessment was published in edited volumes on workplace assessment, she presented papers on assessment policy and practice at national meetings such as the UCLA Legislative Conference, the National Council on Measurement in Education, the American Educational Research Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers Large Scale Assessment meetings, and served as an outside consultant for universities and states, for regional educational laboratories and for assessment companies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith became Supervisor of the Professional Preparation and Development Unit in 2000 where she led a team of education consultants to develop both professional and specialty area standards for Michigan teacher education programs and to assure that Michigan's tests were aligned to the standards; and

WHEREAS, Catherine's team provides technical support for induction and mentoring of new teachers, for professional development planning and for national accreditation of teacher preparation; led the development of Michigan's first policy for measuring teacher preparation institution performance; and she has presented regarding teacher preparation and induction policy and practice at national meetings of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education as well as at international conferences; and

WHEREAS, Prior to state service, Dr. Smith earned her doctorate in Sociology at Michigan State University in 1976 with a dissertation on teacher professionalism and became a research associate and assistant professor in the College of Social Science at Michigan State University; she taught Complex Organizations, Sociology of Work, Sociology of Education, Sociology of the Family and graduate courses in these areas; her research focused on work organizations, professions and education; she received grants from the National Institutes of Mental Health and from the Mott Foundation; her work was published in such journals as Administrative Science Quarterly, Social Problems and Victimology and was presented at national and international conferences and appeared as chapters in edited volumes regarding professional workplaces; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 Dr. Smith became a member of the board of the Teacher Education Accreditation Council, a national accrediting body, and has served on the Executive Committee as Treasurer and on the Accreditation Committee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith is an avid reader, bicyclist, international traveler, and quilter; she and her husband have two children and two grandchildren; and since 1993, they have been developing a northern Michigan farm with wine grapes and chestnuts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has announced her retirement effective January 1, 2011; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives with deep regret the news of the well-deserved retirement of this honored and distinguished employee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude to this exceptional individual; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That in addition to its respect and gratitude, the State Board of Education extends to Dr. Smith its highest regard, and its best wishes for the future.