



## THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

*HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME*

### PROCLAMATION

*Whereas,*

Dr. Ira H. Rubnezahl grew up in the small town of Neversink, New York and started working at the young age of eight and hasn't stopped since. Ira attended Princeton University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received his doctorate degree in physics. Ira has a strong belief and passion in education, especially in the community college system. This dedication and belief has led him to leadership roles at Greenfield Community College, first as a physics and mathematics professor and then as the Academic Dean, and Vice President for academic and student affairs. He later went on to serve as President of Capital Community College in Hartford, CT for eight years. In 2004, Ira accepted the position to become the president of Springfield Technical Community College. Ira arrived at STCC, succeeding former president Dr. Andrew M. Scibelli. He quickly identified two important areas which he wanted to address; first to attract new students for enrollment and second to embrace and expand upon the multi-cultural and diversity strengths of the campus and the community; and

*Whereas,*

Under Ira's leadership, STCC has steadily moved towards improving the mission and goals of the community college. STCC is the only community college in the Commonwealth dedicated to preparing students for technical careers and jobs. STCC is also one of a handful of community colleges in the country that has been designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution; where over twenty-five percent of students enrolled at STCC are classified as Latino. Forty-five percent of the student body is also ethnic minority too. STCC has also seen an increase in the number of minority faculty and staff; and

*Whereas,*

During his tenure as president, STCC has continued to enhance and improve the campus experience to both students and faculty by overseeing numerous projects including the addition of a fitness center, installing campus wide Wi-Fi, and the renovations of old and new buildings, just to name a few. The graduation rate has also increased and programs have expanded. After twelve years at the helm of STCC, Ira is ready to retire calling it "mission accomplished" on achieving the goals he originally wished to accomplish when he took the job twelve years ago; and

*Whereas,*

Ira is retiring after a long, dedicated and distinguished career in the educational field. He is looking forward to spending more time with his family, including his three grandchildren, taking walks and hiking, and continuing his practice of yoga. Today, we join with Ira's family, friends and coworkers in wishing him good health and all the best on the joyous occasion of a well-deserved retirement.

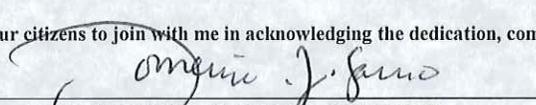
*Therefore, I, Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor*

of the City of Springfield, do hereby proclaim

*Tuesday, May 3, 2016*

*"Dr. Ira H. Rubnezahl Day"*

In the City of Springfield, and I strongly encourage our citizens to join with me in acknowledging the dedication, commitment and professionalism of the honoree.

  
DOMENIC J. SARNO, MAYOR

*Thank you &  
enjoy your  
REtirement!*