

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 24-11

COUNTY OF DORCHESTER

**TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. MARY THORNLEY, PRESIDENT OF TRIDENT  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER FIFTY  
YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Mary Thornley has dedicated fifty years of her life to the field of education, with the last thirty-three years serving as the esteemed president of Trident Technical College; and

**WHEREAS**, President Thornley's visionary leadership has transformed Trident Technical College into the largest technical college in South Carolina, with enrollment growing from 7,997 in 1991 to over 13,000 in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, President Thornley's unwavering commitment to education, economic acceleration, and inspiration has been instrumental in the Lowcountry's continued growth and success; and

**WHEREAS**, Trident Technical College offers a diverse range of courses, including aeronautical studies, business, hospitality, manufacturing, nursing, radio, and television broadcasting, thanks to President Thornley's tireless efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, her outstanding achievements have garnered numerous accolades including the Order of the Palmetto, the Joseph P. Riley Leadership Award, the Shirley B. Gordon Phi Theta Kappa Presidential Award of Distinction, and the South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners CEO Award. The Association of Community College Trustees has twice recognized her exceptional leadership with the CEO Award, in 2009 and 2019; and

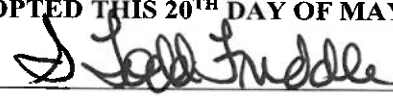
**WHEREAS**, in 2018, Trident Technical College Area Commission voted to rename the college's Main Campus in North Charleston to honor Dr. Thornley for her years of service and leadership. The college's original and largest campus is now officially known as the Thornley Campus.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Dr. Mary Thornley's retirement marks the end of an era at Trident Technical College, where her distinguished leadership has left an indelible mark on the college community, inspiring countless students, faculty and staff, and her legacy will forever inspire generations to come.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Dorchester County Council recognizes Dr. Mary Thornley with deep gratitude and admiration upon the occasion of her well-earned retirement, and wishes her continued success, happiness, and good health in the years to come.

**ADOPTED THIS 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2024.**

BY:



S. Todd Friddle, Chairman  
Dorchester County Council

ATTEST:



Tracey L. Wangle  
Clerk to Council