



Legislation Text

File #: Res 2164-2001, **Version:** *

Res. No. 2164

Resolution calling upon the Council of the City of New York to change the name of the program which awards merit-based scholarships to students of The City University of New York, currently known as "The New York City Council Academic Scholarship", to "The Speaker Peter F. Vallone Academic Scholarship", in honor of the founder of this merit-based scholars program.

By Council Members Marshall, Robinson, Perkins, Carrion, Warden, DiBrienza, Golden, Berman, Boyland, Clarke, Cruz, Dear, Eisland, Eldridge, Espada, Fisher, Foster, Freed, Harrison, Henry, Koslowitz, Lanza, Lasher, Leffler, Linares, López, Malave-Dilan, McCaffrey, Michels, Miller, Moskowitz, Nelson, O'Donovan, Oddo, Ognibene, Pinkett, Povman, Provenzano, Quinn, Reed, Reyna, Rivera, Rodriguez, Sabini, Spigner, Watkins, White, and Wooten; also Council Member Abel

Whereas, The City University of New York ("CUNY" or the "University"), the nation's largest urban public university, comprises eleven senior colleges, six community colleges, a graduate school, a law school, and a medical school, with nearly 200,000 degree-seeking students and 155,00 continuing education students enrolled throughout the five boroughs of the City of New York; and
Whereas, The University, since its founding in the 1870's, has been an integral part of this City's diverse social fabric, providing access and opportunity to quality higher education, and awarding academic degrees from the associate through the doctoral level, as well as offering certificate programs; and
Whereas, Eighty percent of the University's graduates continue to live in New York State ten years after graduation, contributing in a vast array of professions and creating employment opportunities for countless others; and
Whereas, The University's mission of educational access and excellence continues to be of significant relevance and importance to New York in the new millennium; and
Whereas, The Speaker of the New York City Council, the Honorable Peter F. Vallone, founded a scholarship program known as "The City Council Academic Scholarship", to encourage academic excellence and assist students in paying for the costs of a college education; and
Whereas, The New York City Council's Committee on Higher Education under the tenure of its Chair, the Honorable Helen M. Marshall, has assisted in assuring the continued funding of The City Council Academic Scholarship in order to provide educational opportunities for all deserving New Yorkers and, thereby, help realize the mission of CUNY; and
Whereas, The City Council Academic Scholarship is available to students graduating from public or private New York City high schools with at least a B average who wish to attend a CUNY senior or community college full-time within two semesters of graduation; and
Whereas, Currently, scholars receive \$1,450 per year, which pays for nearly half the cost of tuition at a CUNY college, and the program requires that students shall remain eligible for the scholarship by maintaining at least a cumulative B average for each semester without any interruptions in enrollment; and
Whereas, The program has awarded approximately 32,000 scholarships to male and female students of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds since its inception in 1998, with a projected 37,000 scholarships to be awarded by the end of the year 2002; and
Whereas, The Council pays tribute to the Speaker of the Council of the City of New York, the Honorable Peter F. Vallone, for his dedication, service, manifold contributions and deep commitment to the educational excellence of the students of the City of New York and to the fulfillment of the mission of The City University of New York; and
Whereas, The Council of the City of New York commends Speaker Peter F. Vallone by renaming the current scholarship program to The Speaker Peter F. Vallone Academic Scholarship to honor the founder of this merit scholarship program of The City University of New York; now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York changes the name of the program which awards merit-based scholarships to students of The City University of New York, currently known as "The New York City Council Academic Scholarship", to "The Speaker Peter F. Vallone Academic Scholarship", in honor of the founder of this merit-based scholars program.

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