



**COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION
PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY
HONORING THE HONORABLE DONNA OBERLANDER**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Trustees of Pennsylvania Western University (PennWest or University):

WHEREAS, Donna Oberlander served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with distinction as the Representative of the 63rd District from 2009 to 2024, dedicating 16 years to the betterment of her community and state; and

WHEREAS, her trailblazing leadership has set an extraordinary precedent, as she became the first Republican woman to serve as both Republican Whip and Policy Chair, and the first representative from the 63rd District to achieve such advanced leadership roles, including Caucus Secretary and Chair of the House Tourism and Economic and Recreational Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, her steadfast commitment to critical causes was evidenced through her service as co-chair of the House Diabetes Caucus and the House Manufacturing Caucus, and active membership in numerous other caucuses, including the State System of Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, she advanced key legislative initiatives and served on impactful committees, including Appropriations, Children and Youth, Environmental Resources and Energy, and Local Government, while contributing to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PennVEST); and

WHEREAS, Donna's dedication to Pennsylvania's communities has been recognized with numerous accolades, including the "Guardian of Small Business" award, the 2021 Legislative Leadership Award, and honors, including the Rural Health Legislator of the Year and Pennsylvania Rural Educator of the Year, celebrating her contributions to business, education, health, and rural development; and

WHEREAS, her advisory roles on the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center's Advisory Board and the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center's Advisory Committee, exemplify her dedication to fostering innovation, economic growth, and entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, Donna's decades of public service have profoundly impacted the future of Clarion and Armstrong counties, Pennsylvania, and the lives of countless residents, ensuring resilience and progress in the face of challenges; and

WHEREAS, Donna has enriched the Clarion campus community through her unwavering service to its Council of Trustees since 2008, strengthening the institution's mission to provide exceptional higher education opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the PennWest Council of Trustees expresses its deepest gratitude to Donna Oberlander for her exemplary service, steadfast leadership, and enduring contributions to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and beyond;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the permanent records of the Council as a testament to the profound impact of Donna Oberlander's career and service, and that a copy be presented to her with the Council's heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for her future endeavors.



J.D. Dunbar
Chairperson

January 23, 2025
Date