

RESOLUTION FOR RECOGNITION OF SERVICE BY
Dr. Douglas D. Christensen, Commissioner of Education
1994 – 2008

WHEREAS Douglas D. Christensen has spent more than four decades committed to educational excellence. He served as a science teacher at Holdrege High School; school superintendent at Bloomfield and North Platte, Nebraska and Colby, Kansas; an instructor for Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Administration at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and adjunct professor for Curriculum and Instruction, Emporia State University, Emporia Kansas; and Associate, Deputy and Commissioner of Education at the Nebraska Department of Education.

WHEREAS Douglas D. Christensen has brought a commitment to all children, a wealth of knowledge, experience, education, intellect and courage to the position of Commissioner of Education for the past 14 years. He is the longest serving Commissioner of Education in Nebraska. He has served honorably, effectively, with great enthusiasm and energy, and most importantly always with heart and soul.

WHEREAS Douglas D. Christensen has guided Nebraska's schools to keep its focus on teaching and learning by promoting his unwavering belief that children are our future. He believes in the capacity and passion of classroom teachers. He stands solidly for the classroom as the center of the school and the work of the teacher as "the core" of the important work we do as educators.

WHEREAS Douglas D. Christensen, during his years of high performance leadership in the Nebraska Department of Education, has led our schools through the challenges and development of a standards and assessment system. His leadership and courage have forged new ground in these areas. He has been a true educational visionary. He has a passion for the importance of learning and, above all, the courage to express and model his convictions.

WHEREAS Douglas D. Christensen has been an active leader in working to raise achievement for all children and to close achievement gaps among students. His efforts to better serve those who are deaf or hard of hearing or blind or visually impaired have been monumental and have truly made a difference in the quality of education for these students. He has worked tirelessly to help improve the education and lives of the children who are Native American, African American and Hispanic-Latino.

WHEREAS Douglas D. Christensen, during his tenure as Commissioner, has been the recipient of the Nebraska Council of School Administrators Distinguished Service Award; named the Public Official of the Year by Governing Magazine; honored with the Award of Excellence by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Teachers College Alumni Association; honored with the Alvah Kilgore Award Leadership in Assessment by NASCD, named one of the "Daring Dozen" by Edutopia, and many other honors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the State Board of Education confers upon Dr. Douglas D. Christensen the honorary and honorable title of Commissioner Emeritus in recognition of his 14 years as Commissioner of Education and his life's work to provide the best education possible for our children. The State Board of Education hereby adopts this resolution expressing its acknowledgement, appreciation and gratitude for a lifetime of distinguished service in the field of education and a job well done as Nebraska's Commissioner of Education.


Fred Meyer, President, State Board of Education

06/05/08
Date