

March 18, 2010

10-074

IN HONOR OF DR. AMO DE BERNARDIS (1913-2010)

WRITTEN BY: Dr. Preston Pulliams, District President

REPORT: Dr. Amo DeBernardis, the founding president of Portland Community College, passed away Friday, Feb. 19. He was 96. DeBernardis, or "Dr. De" as he was known at the college, served as PCC's president from 1961 up until 1979 when he retired.

Dr. DeBernardis created Portland Community College, initially as the adult and vocational education arm of Portland Public Schools, in 1961. His clear vision, indomitable courage, strength of character, and unflinching belief in the value of education established the legacy of service to community and students that formed the College and that will guide the District for generations to come.

Dr. DeBernardis brought that rare combination of wisdom and tenacity to the idea of establishing Portland Community College. He persevered against sometimes long odds and strong opposition, keeping to the vision of creating opportunities for the Portland community. Portland Community College is what it is today in large measure due to the life and work of Dr. Amo DeBernardis.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors memorialize in this resolution its enduring gratitude and appreciation for the leadership, courage, and contributions of Dr. Amo DeBernardis.