



WHEREAS, Belmont Abbey College, a Catholic, Benedictine baccalaureate and liberal arts institution located in Belmont, North Carolina, was recently ranked in the top-ten of the Best Regional Colleges in the South in the 2017 edition of *U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges*; and,

WHEREAS, the *U.S. News & World Report* measures significant criteria in its best colleges rankings, including student selectivity, graduation rate performance, retention of first-year students, faculty resources, peer institutional assessment, financial resources, and alumni giving. These measures are important indicators of an institution's overall quality and how well it educates its student body; and,

WHEREAS, this is the highest ranking in Belmont Abbey College's history and places it among the best colleges in the nation; and,

WHEREAS, Belmont Abbey attributes much of its distinction and recognition as a leader to its diverse and extraordinary student body, its faculty, staff, administrators and monks and to the institutions commitment to "religious liberty, college affordability and virtue in sport".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proudly congratulates

Belmont Abbey College

upon being ranked in the top-ten of "Best Regional Colleges in the South" in the 2017 edition of *U.S. News & World Report* and commends them for their continued dedication to educational excellence.

Tom Keigher, Chairman

Chad Brown

Tracy L. Philbeck

Joe D. Carpenter

Mickey Price

Allen R. Fraley

Jason Williams, Vice-Chairman

To be adopted the 27th day of September 2016