

**RESOLUTION TO GRANT EMERITA STATUS
TO MARY HARMON**

WHEREAS, Saginaw Valley State University grants emeritus/emerita status to retiring faculty/administrators who have served the University with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Harmon gave twenty-five years of service to SVSU, having arrived at SVSU in 1991, to join the faculty in the Department of English at the rank of Assistant Professor, and receiving the rank of full professor in 1999, and spending over two decades until her retirement in December 2016 dedicated to serving the university in numerous capacities, including two terms as Chair of the Department of English, faculty representative on the Professional Practices Committee, General Education Committee and Graduate Committee, co-director of the National Writing Project, and Dean of the College of Education; and

WHEREAS, in her twenty-five year career at SVSU, Dr. Harmon has had a profound impact on the university's curriculum as the primary architect of the First-Year Writing program, and in so doing has advanced the cause of clear and effective writing to the benefit of both students and faculty; and

WHEREAS, she has distinguished herself through her scholarship on language's intersection with dynamics of power, class, race, and gender, and has shared her love of language through the invention of English 370 (Language in Education), an important link in the department's curriculum in English Education; and

WHEREAS, she employed her irrepressible spirit, humane ideals, and canny pragmatism in the leadership of the English department as its chair, and has donated her talents to the service of SVSU in countless ways, on so many university and departmental committees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harmon boldly took on the leadership of the College of Education at a pivotal moment in its history, serving as its Dean for two years (2013 – 2015) and coordinating the first phase of its ultimately successful bid for accreditation by CAEP; and

WHEREAS, her contribution to her field of study is commendable, co-writing a book on sociolinguistics, and delivering numerous presentations on the subject, primarily for the National Council of Teachers of English, Michigan Council of Teachers of English and the Organization for the Study of Gender, Culture, and Language; and

WHEREAS, her impact as a teacher at many different levels of education has been significant, earning her three “best teacher” awards during her twenty-three year career as a high school English teacher and several Faculty Association research awards during her tenure at SVSU; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harmon has always been passionately committed to sharing her love of language – writing, reading, literature, linguistics and drama, and has not only inspired thousands of students during her forty-eight years of teaching but has served the university with dedication, devotion and distinction with a commitment to excellence in all of her duties; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Dr. Mary Harmon be recognized as Professor Emerita.