RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York approve the naming of the Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center at York College.

EXPLANATION: A 1944 graduate of The City College of New York, Milton Bassin had a long and distinguished career at CUNY in faculty and administrative roles, ultimately serving as President of City Tech (1966-1971) and President of York College (1971-1991).

Milton Bassin is the single individual most responsible for building the York College campus in Jamaica, Queens. During New York City’s fiscal crisis, he became revered in the community for his sterling defense of the College’s existence and retention of its senior college status, overcoming many obstacles until state funding became available. Throughout his two decades of service at York, President Bassin was held in high esteem by York faculty, staff, students, alumni and the Jamaica community.

Queens Borough President Helen Marshall summed up his tremendous contributions as follows: “Dr. Milton Bassin was a man of vision and leadership who guided the future of York College from 1971 to 1991. As the longest-serving president of York, he committed himself to prepare the college, its faculty, students and the entire community of Jamaica for the future. He loved York and knew personally, as a graduate of CUNY himself, that intellectual pursuit in a nourishing environment would reap a rich harvest.”

President Bassin passed away in August 2012. His family and friends are engaged in raising substantial funds to provide scholarships in President Bassin’s name. Due to his singular role in nurturing the growth of York College, the College therefore recommends naming the Performing Arts Center in honor of Milton G. Bassin.