COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

Naming of the Geraldo Rivera Fund for Social Work and Disability Studies

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York approve the naming of the “Geraldo Rivera Fund for Social Work and Disability Studies” at the College of Staten Island.

EXPLANATION: Geraldo Rivera is a New York-based journalist, talk show host, author and philanthropist. Mr. Rivera has a long association with the site of the College of Staten Island (“CSI”) campus, which was previously the location of the Willowbrook State School. He earned a Peabody Award in 1972 for his exposé on the inhumane conditions at Willowbrook, which was closed down in 1987. Mr. Rivera has been an active advocate for people with disabilities ever since. He was invited by social work students to speak at their commencement in Spring 2014 and was inspired by the students and programs at CSI designed to serve people with disabilities, including a new Master’s of Social Work program with a unique focus on meeting the needs of people with disabilities.

In December 2014, Mr. Rivera pledged a gift of $250,000 to the CSI Foundation to establish a fund to support conferences, symposia, lectures, and publications that will inform public policy and contribute to the improvement of services for people with disabilities. The goal of the fund is to make a significant impact on the development and dissemination of knowledge and practice in the fields of social work and disability studies by bringing together an interdisciplinary array of scholars, practitioners, policy makers, thought leaders, and the public for in-depth exploration and information sharing. In recognition of his generosity, CSI requests that the Board approve the naming of the “Geraldo Rivera Fund for Social Work and Disability Studies” in his honor.