I.B.3 - BROOKLYN COLLEGE - RESOLUTION TO AWARD AN HONORARY DEGREE


EXPLANATION: During his outstanding career of public service, Bernard (Bernie) Sanders (VT-I) has maintained an enduring commitment to progressive causes and justice for all. He has been an unwavering advocate of working- and middle class Americans, spearheading legislation for veterans, and advancing the causes of civil, immigrant, women’s, disability, and LGBTQ rights, as well as affordable higher education, environmental protection, and renewable energy.

BERNARD SANDERS

U.S. Senator Bernard (Bernie) Sanders (VT-I) is known worldwide for his campaign for the Democratic party’s 2016 U.S. presidential nomination. The longest serving independent in U.S. congressional history, Sanders served as a congressman for 16 years, until he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2006. In 2012, he was re-elected with 71 percent of the vote.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Sanders graduated from James Madison High School in 1959 and briefly attended Brooklyn College, transferring in 1960 to the University of Chicago, where he received a degree in political science in 1964.

Sanders’ lifelong career as an activist for civil rights and progressive causes began early as a student organizer for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). A plainspoken defender of what he calls “real family values,” Sanders made women’s, immigrant, and LGBTQ rights, and causes such as a living wage, equal pay for equal work, and parental leave as the cornerstone of his presidential campaign.

Today Sanders continues to be a tireless champion of the interests of working- and middle-class Americans. As chairman of the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs (VA), he has helped passed legislation to reform the VA healthcare system. He has fought to protect Medicare and Social Security, which he says “has been the most successful anti-poverty program in American history.” He has also introduced bipartisan legislation to extend and modernize the Older Americans Act, a landmark law that provides a wide-range of services such as nutrition programs, transportation, legal services, and caregivers support. Sanders has been unwavering in his efforts to make higher education accessible to all, introducing legislation to increase Pell grants for students from low-income families, and calling for tuition- and debt-free college. A member of the Environmental and Public Works and Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Sanders has made combating climate change and transforming America’s energy program from fossil fuels to renewable sources a priority.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution as a public servant, defender of civil, immigrant, women’s, and LGTBQ rights, and an advocate for the working and middle-classes, Brooklyn College seeks to honor Bernie Sanders with the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*. 