

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *NEED*, the oldest educational nonprofit organization providing academic supports and scholarship assistance to needy students, will celebrate its 57th annual scholarship dinner on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, following the death of civil rights leader Medgar Evers, Marion Jordon and Florence Reizenstein called a meeting of their friends and peers to see how they could help a group of African Americans who were accepted to college, but could not afford to go; and

WHEREAS, from the meeting, and with the leadership of Ms. Jordon and Ms. Reizenstein, *NEED* was founded; for the last 57 years, the organization has provided grants, scholarships, mentoring, internships and more to our region's minority youth; in all, over 34,000 deserving young people have been provided with nearly \$38 million in grants and scholarships for education; and

WHEREAS, *NEED* grants help empower Pittsburgh's next generation of leaders to overcome financial, class, cultural and social barriers; the organization's resources play an important role in encouraging access through financial and counseling assistance to those who are the neediest students; and

WHEREAS, with the number of jobs in our region growing and providing unprecedented opportunities, it is even more important that our students get the skills they need to be able to meet the workforce needs of the region; through the selfless efforts of staff and volunteers, *NEED* has been able to provide those resources over and over; and

WHEREAS, we congratulate the 50 high school seniors who will be awarded scholarships tonight, as well as the four esteemed individuals who will be recognized for their significant contributions to the community: The Honorable J. Warren Watson; retired Court of Common Pleas Judge, The Honorable Cheryl Allen; retired Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge, Dr. Shirley Biggs; and University of Pittsburgh Professor Emeritus, Dr. Jerome Taylor; and

WHEREAS, we are fortunate to have NEED in our community, and for its 57 years of helping students in our region succeed, regardless of the financial challenges before them; Ms. Jordon and Ms. Reizenstein would be proud of the role that NEED plays in our community and grateful for its continued impact on our region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby congratulate NEED on its 57th annual scholarship dinner, thank it for its continued contributions to students in Allegheny County, and wish all of its beneficiaries and benefactors many more years of successes in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 26th day of March, 2020.

Rich Fitzgerald

RICH FITZGERALD