

# Proclamation

Presented by

*Senator Celina Villanueva*

*Congratulating on a significant milestone*

*St. Xavier University*

*Presented this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021*

**WHEREAS:** *Saint Xavier University, the first Catholic university in Chicago and the first Mercy institution of higher learning in the world, is celebrating 175 years in 2021; and*

**WHEREAS:** *Since 1846, SXU has been transforming lives through education, and the ways the institution has evolved over time to reach this extraordinary milestone are remarkable; and*

**WHEREAS:** *When five Sisters of Mercy arrived in Chicago to begin the work of Catholic education, they honored their leader, Mother Frances Xavier Warde, using the name of her patron, St. Francis Xavier, by opening the Saint Francis Xavier Female Academy of Chicago in 1846; and*

**WHEREAS:** *Since then, Saint Xavier has shown marked resilience, remaining focused on its mission of service to the underserved, grounded by the fundamental principles and values of our founding Sisters of Mercy, as well as its mission to serve students; and*

**WHEREAS:** *From surviving the destruction caused by the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 to navigating more recent challenges posed in the higher education landscape, the institution has grown in numerous ways; and*

**WHEREAS:** *The University has added new buildings and programs and collected academic and athletic accolades in serving a student body of undergraduate and graduate students that continue to grow, with enrollment consistently surpassing the previous year; and*

**WHEREAS:** *The institution is a vital part of Illinois history as it undertakes significant community engagement efforts that span every segment of society; therefore be it*

**PROCLAIMED:** *BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate St. Xavier University for its dedication to students, higher education and workforce development; and be it further*

**PROCLAIMED:** *That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to St. Xavier University as a symbol of our esteem and respect.*



**Senator Celina Villanueva**  
*11<sup>th</sup> Senate District*