



**Draft Resolution in Honor of Michael Casserly
Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools**

Approved XXX

Whereas, Michael Casserly has served as Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools for 29 years and is stepping down from his leadership position and assuming a role of consultant and advisor;

Whereas, through his insightful leadership of the Council, Michael Casserly inspired and initiated the Trial Urban District Assessment Program (TUDA) of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which assesses representative samples of students in urban districts across the United States through which invaluable data are provided for these districts to understand and to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of their cities' students;

Whereas, Michael Casserly strengthened and sustained the TUDA program for more than two decades, expanding the program from six districts in its first year to 27 districts that currently participate by eloquently explaining the unique value and immense power of TUDA data to urban school district policy and function;

Whereas, the TUDA data facilitate urban school districts' efforts to improve student performance and close achievement gaps by allowing districts to conduct comparative analyses with districts similar in demographic profile, to learn lessons from peers' experiences and successes, and to discern and implement effective education practices, with large cities making significant score gains and their performance on NAEP Reading and Mathematics improving faster than the nation;

Whereas, Michael Casserly's leadership of the TUDA Task Force with the Governing Board affords vitally important feedback to the Governing Board to inform and improve policy, research, and communications related to NAEP and to the TUDA program, leading to significant improvements;

Whereas, Michael Casserly's ardent advocacy for NAEP neither began nor concluded with the TUDA program in that he consistently and persuasively championed for support for the Nation's Report Card and worked tirelessly to advance the NAEP program through his savvy, sage, expert advice, his keen insights on strategic implementation of assessment programs, and his thoughtful, collegial collaboration with both the National Center for Education Statistics and the Governing Board members and staff;

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Assessment Governing Board expresses its profound appreciation and gratitude for Michael Casserly's unwavering support and monumental contributions to NAEP and student achievement in our nation;

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be entered permanently into the minutes of the National Assessment Governing Board meeting of May 2021.

Signed on this Thirteenth Day of May, Two-Thousand and Twenty-One

Haley Barbour, Chair
National Assessment Governing Board