



Resolution in Memory of Mary Lyn Bourque

Approved Unanimously May 13, 2016

Whereas Mary Lyn Bourque served as the first Assistant Director for Psychometrics of the National Assessment Governing Board;

Whereas during her years of service, 1989 to 2000, Dr. Bourque was the Board's chief advisor on the technical soundness and design of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP); led the conceptualization and development of achievement levels, which have become widely-referenced standards of academic performance; played a key role in the long-term redesign of the National Assessment, assembling a team of experts and making major contributions to its work; published in major academic journals; and held key posts in national educational measurement organizations;

Whereas Dr. Bourque led the Governing Board's pioneering work in setting achievement levels to provide information on what students should know and be able to do; and managed the national panels comprised of teachers, other educators, and members of the public that recommended seven sets of achievement levels to the Governing Board—in mathematics, reading, science, writing, civics, U.S. history, and geography;

Whereas she was thoughtful and clear-spoken in developing and explaining policy recommendations, ardent and effective in defending Board decisions, and adept and creative in developing solutions;

Whereas Dr. Bourque provided her technical expertise as a testing and measurement expert in her consulting career after leaving the Governing Board, to include work as principal drafter of the NAEP Background Information Framework, which continues to guide the use of contextual variables in NAEP; and was always well organized, detail oriented, warm to colleagues and friends, generous and patient with those asking her opinion or advice—she accomplished much and will be greatly missed;

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Assessment Governing Board expresses grateful recognition of the important contributions made by Mary Lyn Bourque and conveys its deep sorrow and sincere sympathy to her family and friends upon her death; and

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