

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

18th Legislative
Assembly

3rd Regular
Session

SENATE OF PUERTO RICO

S. R. 770

May 21, 2018

Introduced by Mr. *Tirado-Rivera*

RESOLUTION

To express the congratulations and recognition of the Senate of Puerto Rico to Dr. Kimberly Durham, Interim Dean of the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education (FCE) of Nova Southeastern University (NSU), for her contribution to the development of quality higher education in the United States and Puerto Rico as well as her contributions to the intellectual, social, and moral development of thousands of professionals who are now part of the Island's workforce, and for having been chosen as NSU's 2018 Executive of the Year.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) is a not-for-profit institution founded in 1964 in the State of Florida that acknowledges the major educational contribution that the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education (FCE) offers through all of its high-quality education programs and continued excellence. This institution has been a pioneer in distance education since 1972 and is largest college of postgraduate studies in the United States. Its programs are offered through different instructional methodologies according to the needs and work schedule of its students, the characteristics of their place of residence, and their personal goals. Said Institution has a university campus in Puerto Rico that offers masters and doctoral degrees in education and pharmacy, among others.

According to Dr. Kimberly Durham, Interim Dean of the Abraham Fischler College of Education (FCE), “the biggest change is we have a much stronger focus on research. The interdisciplinary approach really engages all facets of our university in this endeavor. That doesn’t mean we’ve turned away from our students; we can still be actively engaged with them as well – just imagine the problems we can solve together.”

It worth noting that Dr. Kimberly Durham has contributed to supporting the projects as well as the accreditation of educational programs in Puerto Rico. She has also been recognized for her unconditional support to the education community in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

Exemplifying NSU’s Core Values of opportunity, community, and student centered, Dr. Durham serves NSU in many capacities. In scarcely a year as Interim Dean, she has increased employee morale as well as new student enrollment and retention. In addition, she continues serving as Chair of the Department of Justice and Human Services within the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Interim Director of NSU’s Veterans Resource Center, an initiative that she helped establish and that she feels passionate about. She’s also the Chair of the NSU’s Broward Sheriff’s Office providing community outreach and professional development opportunities. She believes that working alongside dedicated and passionate educators is the most gratifying aspect of her 34 years of service. For this NSU alumna, “Shark Pride” is more than a slogan... Is a way of life! For all of her contributions, Dr. Kimberly Durham was chosen NSU’s 2018 Executive of the Year.

Therefore, for her contribution to the development of quality higher education in the United States and Puerto Rico as well as for her contributions to the intellectual, social, and moral development of hundreds of professionals who are now part of the Island’s workforce, and for having been chosen as NSU’s 2018 Executive of the Year, the Senate of Puerto Rico hereby recognizes Dr. Kimberly Durham and congratulates her on her achievements.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO:

1 Section 1.- The congratulations and recognition of the Senate of Puerto Rico
2 are hereby expressed to Dr. Kimberly Durham, Interim Dean of the Abraham S.
3 Fischler College of Education (FCE) of Nova Southeastern University (NSU) for her
4 contributions and achievements in benefit of higher education in the United States
5 and Puerto Rico.

6 Section 2.- Senator Cirilo Tirado-Rivera shall deliver a copy of this Resolution
7 in a parchment scroll to Dr. Kimberly Durham.

8 Section 3.- This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval.