

Senate Resolution 346

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Seay of the 34th, Strickland of the 17th, Jones of the 10th, Dugan of the 30th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. Thomas J. Hynes upon the occasion of his retirement from
2 Clayton State University; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas J. Hynes has served as president of Clayton State University since
4 2010, where he has built a foundation of transparency, strategic thinking, collaboration, and
5 community engagement; it is upon that foundation that Clayton State University has emerged
6 as a strong partner for families, communities, businesses, and governments of the South
7 Metro Atlanta area; and

8 WHEREAS, like many graduates of Clayton State University, he was the first in his family
9 to graduate from college; he continued his education by acquiring a master's degree in
10 communications from the University of North Carolina and a PhD from the University of
11 Massachusetts; and

12 WHEREAS, he developed his leadership and teaching skills at the University of Louisville,
13 founding the University Debate Program and leading it to its first National Debate title within
14 six years; he further served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1990 to 1996;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, having found enlightenment, he moved to Georgia where he led the University
17 of West Georgia as provost and served twice as interim president; and

18 WHEREAS, he was selected by the board of regents as the fourth president of Clayton State
19 University in 2010; and

20 WHEREAS, his leadership rests upon the idea that a university's strength is in its people,
21 faculty, staff, and students, who believe that education and hard work create the conditions
22 necessary for individual and community success; and

23 WHEREAS, his daily actions demonstrate and enforce his belief that transparency,
24 collaboration, the recognition of shared values, and engagement are essential to institutional
25 success; and

26 WHEREAS, alumni and businesses have positively endorsed his leadership by increasing the
27 size of Clayton State's endowment by more than 350 percent in ten years and increasing
28 annual fundraising by ten times the amount raised in 2010; and

29 WHEREAS, his personal engagement with communities served by Clayton State has been
30 real; he has served as chair of the Georgia Humanities Council; as chair of the Board of
31 Trustees of the National Debate Tournament; on the executive committee of the National
32 Communication Association; on the boards of the Clayton County, Fayette County, Henry
33 County, and Metro Atlanta chambers of commerce; as chair of the Atlanta Business
34 Coalition; as co-chair of Leadership Fayette; and on the Atlanta Regional Commission's
35 Economic Competitiveness Committee; and

36 WHEREAS, Dr. Hynes has been named three times by *Georgia Trend* as one of the 100
37 Most Influential Georgians and seven times by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* as one of the
38 Leaders in Atlanta Education, and Clayton State has received recognition as a Top Place to
39 Work by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* every year since 2015; and

40 WHEREAS, in addition to his institutional leadership, Dr. Hynes has edited ten books and
41 written more than 40 articles and scholarly papers; and

42 WHEREAS, he has competed in and completed more than 26 marathons, including the
43 Boston Marathon and the New York Marathon, and 20 Peachtree Road Races, which stands
44 as a testament to his good health, tenacity, and willingness to see a goal to its conclusion; and

45 WHEREAS, Dr. Hynes faithfully carries a copy of the Constitution in his coat pocket, and
46 he has promoted the American ideas of freedom consistently throughout his career; in 2003,
47 he and others came together to found the American Democracy Project, focusing on public
48 higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed and engaged citizens;
49 and

50 WHEREAS, the project now boasts a network of 296 colleges and universities and more than
51 two million students; and

52 WHEREAS, his omnipresent smile, unbridled enthusiasm for learning, and desire for
53 everyone to achieve personal success as they define it have provided thousands of students,
54 staff, and faculty the keys to lifelong success, and it is proper that this outstanding and
55 distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
57 recognize and commend Dr. Thomas J. Hynes for his many years of gregarious, joyous,
58 unselfish, and dedicated service to Clayton State University, the University of West Georgia,
59 his community, this state, and this nation; congratulate him upon his retirement; and extend
60 sincere best wishes for continued success, health, and happiness.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
62 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. Thomas J.
63 Hynes.