PROCLAMATION: Western Michigan University’s MLK Academy Celebrating 50 Years Honoring Program Founder – Roger Pulliam, Ph.D.

WHEREAS In 1968, Project 73 was founded on Western Michigan University’s (WMU) campus by Dr. Roger Pulliam along with a group of young Black students known as the Black Action Movement who challenged discriminatory practices at Western Michigan University and sought to increase racial minority student and faculty representation on campus.; and

WHEREAS Project 73 was funded by a grant from the Kellogg Foundation that established a six-week summer bridge program that provided academic services and scholarships to 60 African-American first-year students from high schools across the southwestern Michigan region and was later named the MLK Program, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sylvia Taylor Penn, the mother of WMU’s Trustee Shani Penn is an alumnus of the MLK Academy under the direction of Dr. Pulliam; and

WHEREAS In 1993, the year round program added a 21-day intensive summer program to the format where students earned academic credit while participating in group building, leadership and learning techniques; and

WHEREAS Dr. Roger Pulliam the founder of the MLK Program earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in education from Western Michigan University, and earned a Ph.D. in education at the University of Michigan; and

WHEREAS In 1989, Dr. Pulliam set off to Wisconsin and served the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for more than 23 years as assistant vice chancellor and director of Advancement in Academic Support Services. During his time in the role of vice chancellor Dr. Pulliam started a program like WMU’s MLK Academy that helps young people, especially first-generation and multicultural students, build connections to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater; and

WHEREAS Thousands of first-generation students at Western Michigan University have benefited and are appreciative of Dr. Roger Pulliam’s vision, his social and political compass that fostered a program that has helped them graduate from college and become great leaders in our society; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED Western Michigan University Board of Trustees do hereby congratulate Dr. Roger Pulliam’s dedication to education, commitment to students, and his Sacrifice and Service that has strengthened families.