

# CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**Governing Board Agenda**

**Meeting Date:** September 22, 2009

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Item Title</u>	<u>Responsible Agents</u>
V.B.1	Emeritus Distinction Rio Salado College	Dr. Rufus Glasper Dr. Linda M. Thor

**Recommendation**

In accordance with the Governing Board policy, it is recommended that the Governing Board award Vice President Emeritus Distinction to Dr. Karen Mills, Vice President of Academic Affairs for Rio Salado College.

**Justification**

During the past 30 years, Dr. Mills has overseen many of Rio Salado’s most successful model programs, partnerships and innovations. Her significant and lasting contributions to Rio Salado, the Maricopa District, and to higher education at the regional and national levels have been reflected throughout her career. Dr. Mills was a driving force behind the college’s highly successful implementation of online learning. Currently enrolling 36,000 Rio students annually, this premier program has received numerous national awards. Additionally, Dr. Mills operationalized Rio Salado’s unprecedented 26 and later 50 annual online start dates, a revolutionary strategy in higher education.

Programs that have flourished under her leadership include Teacher Education, serving 5,500 students annually; Registered Nursing, one of the first in the U.S. to be offered online; and GoArmyEd, which annually serves 3,000 student soldiers who need educational opportunities to advance or for post- military careers. Under her leadership, Rio’s Dual Enrollment Program, educating 6,000 students at 50 partnering high schools each year, was the first in the country to receive full accreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships.

Dr. Mills was an original Rio Salado employee in 1978, starting as a GED instructor. She developed expertise in Adult Basic Education (ABE) and grew the program from 750 to 15,000 students. In 1985 this program received the U.S. Secretary of Education’s Award for Outstanding Adult Basic Education. Dr. Mills was responsible for the legislative approval to award FTSE funding for ABE, resulting in approximately \$1.2 million in annual revenue for the district. Other significant accomplishments:

- Appointments to two Mayoral and one Legislative education-related committees
- Serving as President for the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, The Arizona Adult Education Association, and the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

Her leadership, dedication, and extensive contributions of 30 years warrants emeritus status.

<b>Funding</b>	<b>Approvals/Certifications</b>
<p><u>Source:</u></p> <p><u>Account Identification:</u></p>	<p>Chancellor _____</p> <p>Academic &amp; Student Affairs _____</p> <p>Business Services _____</p> <p>Human Resources _____ ITS_ _____</p> <p>Res Dev &amp; Cmty Relations _____</p> <p>College President _____</p>