

Proclamation

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Cantrell, whose passion for vocational and career education spanned almost fifty years, dedicated the last twenty years of public service to the students and citizens of Manatee County, and passed away on July 12, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cantrell was the living embodiment of her philosophy that “education changes lives” as she overcame childhood adversity to achieve a Bachelor’s Degree in Education, Master’s Degree in Administration and Supervision, and Doctorate degree in Vocational Curriculum; and

WHEREAS, as the Director of Manatee Technical Institute, now Manatee Technical College (MTC), Dr. Cantrell transformed a small vocational school into a nationally recognized institution with four campuses throughout the county, including a state-of-the-art modern facility as its main campus on State Road 70; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cantrell involved business and community leaders in the development of over fifty career and technical programs at MTC, which significantly impact the employment needs and economic welfare of Manatee County students, businesses, and the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cantrell envisioned high quality programs for first responders at MTC, collaborating with leaders from local law enforcement, firefighters, and medical professionals to design and put in place modern, effective career and training programs in these critically important fields; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cantrell believed that healthy competition breeds confidence and success and was immensely proud of the hundreds of students over the last decade who participated in National SkillsUSA, consistently winning more medals than any other state in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cantrell lived a life of public service as evidenced by various endeavors beyond her duties as Director of MTC, including United Way of Manatee County Division Chair 2000-2001, Manasota ARC Board of Directors 1998-2001, Florida Automotive Service Program Advisory Committee 2009-2014, National SkillsUSA Technical Team member 2009-2014, Kiwanis member, Lion’s Club volunteer, and Girl Scouts Assistant Troop Leader; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cantrell has been recognized for her positive impact on children and adults of Manatee County, including but not limited to awards and honors such as the 2002 Bradenton AAUW Educational Leader Award, 2012 Tampa Bay Business Journal Woman of the Year in Education, the 2012 Educator Award for the Mexican American Council of Florida, and the 2002 Carl Proehl Award from Florida Adult Career and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS, elected in 2014 to the School Board of Manatee County, Dr. Cantrell worked with dignity and integrity for the betterment of students and employees alike; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cantrell’s singular and far reaching impact will be felt in the community well into the future and she will be sorely missed in the present.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, dedicates this Proclamation in memory of the tireless and visionary lifelong educator, **Dr. Mary Cantrell**.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 20th day of October 2015.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Betsy Benac, Chairman

ATTEST: **Angelina Coloneso**
Clerk of the Circuit Court
