

**RESOLUTION**  
**THE GUARDIANS INITIATIVE: RECLAIMING THE PUBLIC TRUST™**

**WHEREAS** America's higher education system is recognized around the world for its creativity, educational diversity and quality, research excellence, and foundational role as a vehicle of opportunity for students to improve themselves and society; and

**WHEREAS** growing skepticism toward higher education—driven by concerns about rising costs and resulting constraints on access; uncertain employment prospects; freedom of speech and civil discourse; campus sexual assaults; incidents of racial, ethnic, and identity discord; and other challenges—has led the American public to question its value to individuals and society; and

**WHEREAS** university and college governing board members, focused on the successful achievement of the missions of their own institutions, have not traditionally been engaged in the national discourse about the enduring contributions of higher education to our nation's ideals and prosperity writ large, and to the advancement of individual citizens; and

**WHEREAS** governing board members can be more effective, both within their own institutions and beyond, if they develop an appreciation for and a sense of belonging to higher education as a whole.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we,

affirm the value of our diverse higher education system and pledge to raise our individual and collective voices to communicate this value, in coordination with AGB's Guardians Initiative, and reclaim the public's trust.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we, as committed fiduciaries of our institutions, are Guardians of higher education writ large, and ensure and champion the fundamental contributions of our colleges and universities to individuals and to society.