

Emeritus Statement for Dr. Randall H. Caton

Whereas: Randall H. Caton, Professor of Physics, Computer Science and Engineering, has served with creative mind, boundless energy, and unswerving devotion as a member of the Faculty of Christopher Newport University for twenty-one years of unbroken and faithful dedication through his retirement in May of 2008; and

Whereas: his service to his Department has been remarkable, including leadership as chair for eight years of developing excellence of the Department, culminating in the accreditation of the computer engineering program and the selection of the masters program as one of the nation's top applied physics programs by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation; and including service on committees to design curriculum; leading strategic planning efforts; nurturing the Departmental Advisory Board; and directing CISE (CNU Institute for Science Education); and

Whereas: Professor Caton has been an excellent and innovative teacher, marked by unfailingly thorough preparation, by a genuine and long-lasting interest in students, by early adoption of technology-based teaching tools to enhance student learning, by his embrace of Peer Instruction using Classroom Response Systems and Just In Time Teaching that made his classes superb examples of active learning and most significantly by his wholly-transparent love of the discipline of physics exemplified a life-long pursuit of knowledge that informed his students; and

Whereas: he has constantly worked to enhance the representation of minorities in the field of Engineering, by serving as co-director of the MIRACLES program, by directing NSF-funded Project EXCEL: Focused on Physics to inspire minorities to enter careers in science and engineering, by organizing the Young PhDs program for seventh grade students through Cooperating Hampton Roads Organizations for Minorities in Engineering (CHROME), and by representing CNU on the board of CHROME from 1989-2002 and being named volunteer of the year in 1997, and

Whereas: he has continually worked to enhance education at the precollege level in Virginia, including directing the Teachers as Researchers portion of the NSF-funded Project STARS to

systemically reform science and math education in the state of Virginia, and worked on IEEE Active Learning Through Student Production of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Education Materials Grant to co-direct the Vinny Video Production Competition from 2003-2005; and

Whereas: his fifty publications over thirty years having been consistent in quantity and quality, making valuable contributions in several fields, from experimental solid state physics and the characterization of high temperature superconductors to the development of teaching and learning techniques, including using the programming environment Squeak to develop hundreds of online educational activities; and

Whereas: by his engagement with the enhancement of teaching skills of school teachers, he moved into the lead role for CNU's partnership in the creation and development of NASA's Center for Distance Learning enabling thousands of school students and their teachers to encounter the mysteries of the universe; making possible the excellence to which over a dozen regional Emmys gives testimony; and

Whereas: In the light of such service and accomplishment, his decision to retire from the Faculty of Christopher Newport University has caused the Department of Physics, Computer Science and Engineering and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to recommend that his long professional association with Christopher Newport University be continued beyond the date of retirement.

Therefore Be It Resolved That Professor Randall H. Caton, in the best and most stringent traditions of experimental physics and of teaching, be recognized as Professor Emeritus of Physics, and that his wisdom, patience, and insight continue to guide the direction of his department and Christopher Newport University. The Faculty Senate of Christopher Newport University hereby recommends that the title of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon Randall H. Caton, B.S., M.S., Ph.D., with all the rights, honors, and privileges attendant to such status.

