



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2011, IBM celebrated its 100 Year Anniversary, which is unmatched in the world of business and technology; and

WHEREAS, countless corporations, political groups, technologies, economic upheavals and scientific disciplines have risen and disappeared throughout the decades – IBM has persevered. Its insights are critical to America's rising leaders who are charting their paths in a more global and competitive world; and

WHEREAS, since its founding on June 16, 1911, IBM has continued to evolve and to anticipate the needs of their clients and of citizens around the world. IBM has always used the information revolution to improve our world by creating cleaner air and water, better crime-fighting systems for cities, and lower incidence of AIDS, influenza, and other infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, IBM has continued to reinvent itself as a modern corporation through best practices around strong leadership, management training, and global growth. IBM has always anticipated the challenges of global business collaboration from building the equal opportunity workforce 11 years before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to being the first technology company to acquire a consulting firm; and

WHEREAS, IBM's long-term view of leadership development and talent management has helped make positive changes within business and society. The company has pioneered many of the management practices of the 20th century business – from diversity and accessibility, to census results faster than human clerks for the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, IBM is continuing to shape the way the world works by investing \$6 billion annually in research and development. IBM's more than 400,000 global employees are developing the practices and discoveries that are creating a "Smarter Planet" and

WHEREAS, last February, IBM unveiled "Watson" – an analytical machine that rivals a human's ability to answer questions posed in natural language with speed, accuracy, and confidence. Watson made its debut as the first non-human contestant to appear on *Jeopardy!* IBM is exploring ways to apply this technology for health care diagnosis, drug interactions, prior case law searches for judges and lawyers, "what if" scenarios and regulatory compliance, and smarter sales forces for companies.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUMTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DOES HEREBY CONGRATULATE IBM ON THEIR 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND FOR REACHING THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE.

DONE AND PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of August 2011, in Sumter County, Florida.

Attest:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SUMTER COUNTY



James Webb
Clerk

Don Burgess
Chairman