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ALTES PRIZE - 2014

Good evening and welcome colleagues, friends, and family of Dr. Catherine Fisher Collins, the 2014 recipient of Empire State College's Altes Prize for Exemplary Community Service.

The Altes Prize is named for Dr. Jane W. Altes, who served for many years as Vice President of Academic Affairs and also as interim president of Empire State College. The prize has been awarded since 2000 to recognize community service by a member of the college's faculty who applies academic expertise to important community issues.

Dr. Altes is not able to be with us this evening, but asks me to share greetings with you. **READ ALTES LETTER**

Altes Prize recipients are often recognized for a particular community service. It is the case that Dr. Collins community service is multifaceted, and I'll share a few highlights:

Dr. Lorraine Peeler, a recently deceased member of the faculty and also a recipient of the Altes Prize, wrote in her letter of nomination for this year's prize:

Dr. Collins has not only served the Empire State College community and our students for the past twenty-two years, she is also a

dedicated community service provider for Western New York and communities beyond its borders. What is exemplary about Dr. Collins is that she...goes beyond her academic expertise to translate what she learns into community services that include community presentations, workshops, activities and support.

Dr. Collins has worked on a variety of community concerns, but with particular emphasis on the health and well-being of African American girls and women... She has made important contributions that address the status of and conditions faced by incarcerated African American women, including the provision of health screenings and related information. She also has been actively involved in supporting a local transition house for women returning from prison...

Dr. Collins is a nurse practitioner with extensive experience teaching in the health field; her community work often brings her back to addressing to health concerns. A few years ago, she initiated a local radio program that extends her work as a health educator to the community and via the internet.

Dr. Collins has received numerous awards for her service to Buffalo and the state of New York, and I'm please to recognize her community service this evening with the Empire State College Altes Prize for Exemplary Service.