

A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by ALDERMAN MARY O'CONNOR on JULY 25, 2012

Whereas, A small group of men interested in journalism education including Willard G. Bleyer of the University of Wisconsin Madison, *Chicago Tribune* managing editor James Keeley, and F.W. Scott of the University of Illinois, gathered for a conference at the Hotel Sherman in the great city of Chicago, Illinois on November 30, 1912, to explore the creation of a permanent organization that would discuss and encourage the teaching of journalism at the college level; and

WHEREAS, The unanimous decision of the 23 men present that day was to create an association known as the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC); and

WHEREAS, AEJMC's flagship refereed publication, *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, was established in 1924, and presents reports of original research and developments in theory and methodology of communication, international communication, journalism history, and social and legal problems; and

WHEREAS, Through its efforts supporting the 1924 creation of a set of "standards and principles for education in journalism," which AEJMC has been instrumental in supporting standards of accreditation of academic programs offering instruction in professional and technical aspects of media; and

WHEREAS, That 1924 set of standards created the foundation of the current accreditation process, and have become the hallmark of an outstanding program in journalism education and have been a significant factor in the rise of professional standards of journalism; and

WHEREAS, AEJMC launched *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator* in 1944, as a refereed publication addressing the professional needs of the journalism and mass communication educator and administrator at the collegiate level, and focusing on teaching techniques, new courses and technology, as well as presenting statistical information on student enrollments and career interests, and trends in curriculum design; and

WHEREAS, 1966 saw the birth of the AEJMC refereed publication *Journalism & Communication Monographs*, devoted to in-depth, long-form research on specific, critical, and innovative topics within journalism and mass communication; and

WHEREAS, AEJMC not only continues its solid track record of publishing traditional print journals, but also serves as a model for using new communications media, with three websites, a Facebook page and a Twitter feed having more than 4,000 followers; and

WHEREAS, AEJMC continues to focus on the improvement of education in journalism and mass communication to the end of achieving better professional practice, a better informed public, and wider human understanding; and

WHEREAS, To encourage better prepared graduates, AEJMC developed a new program that allows faculty to see industry changes first-hand through a summer “externship” at various media outlets, including *The Chicago Tribune* – strengthening the bond formed 100 years ago when the *Tribune*’s managing editor attended the initial gathering; and

WHEREAS, To encourage diversity within the academy and to support the advancement of women and people of color into leadership roles, AEJMC launched a *Journalism and Mass Communication Leadership in Diversity* program which has graduated almost 80 fellows, more than half of whom have moved into leadership positions in schools of journalism and mass communication, as well as created the *Equity & Diversity Award* to recognize schools that are doing outstanding work in building diversity within their units; and

WHEREAS, 100 years after its founding, AEJMC is the world’s largest association devoted to journalism and mass communication education, with several hundred members from Illinois and more than 3600 members from around the world, and continues strengthening its international connections with Journalism and Mass Communication programs around the world; and

WHEREAS, AEJMC will return to Chicago August 9 to 12, 2012, to kick off its centennial celebration of 100 years of service to journalism and mass communication education; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this twenty fifth day of July, 2012, do hereby express our congratulations to the AEJMC on its 100 years of leadership in the field of Journalism and Mass Communication; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Host Committee of the AEJMC 2012 Conference and Board of Directors of the AEJMC.



Ral Emanuel

MAYOR

Susana A. Mendoza

CITY CLERK