

Introduced by the County Services Committee of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION AWARDING GLADYS BECKWITH WITH THE 2011 INGHAM COUNTY
WOMEN'S COMMISSION LUCILE E. BELEN AWARD**

RESOLUTION #11-130

WHEREAS, Gladys Beckwith became known as a visionary who dedicated her life to advancing public understanding of the role of Michigan women in the development of society; and

WHEREAS, following a BA in English, a Masters Degree in English, and a PhD in Education, all at Michigan State University, Gladys joined the faculty of the Department of American Thought and Language in 1967 and retired in 1999; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, she and a small group of colleagues formed the Michigan Women's Studies Association which was the first of its kind in the nation, its mission was to bring more visibility to the role of women in history and to encourage the development of women's studies at all Michigan colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, even before the Center opened, inductions began in 1983, included in the first group were Sojourner Truth—a former slave, abolitionist, preacher, women's rights advocate—and Martha Griffiths, the first woman to serve as lieutenant governor in Michigan, more than 250 honorees have been inducted since that time; and

WHEREAS, Gladys has been recognized as a pioneer in the field of women's studies and women's history in our state and in our nation; and

WHEREAS, she served as an unpaid Executive Director of the Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame until 2008 when the first paid Director was hired; and

WHEREAS, Gladys retired June 30, 2010 as the President of the Michigan Women's Studies Association after 37 years; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Beckwith was nominated as the recipient of the Ingham County Women's Commission 2011 Lucile E. Belen Award.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and the Ingham County Women's Commission applaud Gladys Beckwith for her contributions in retrieving the history of Michigan women and hereby award her with the Ingham County Women's Commission 2011 Lucile E. Belen Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners and the Women's Commission applaud Gladys for her commitment to impact and change what is thought and taught about Michigan women.

COUNTY SERVICES: Yeas: De Leon, Copedge, Celentino, Schor, Vickers, Dragonetti
Nays: None **Absent:** None **Approved 4/19/11**