

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**  
**No. 2018 - 8**

**NAMING THE BRIAN J. WHISTON MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN**

WHEREAS, Brian J. Whiston dedicated a lifetime of public service to the students of Michigan, which spanned several decades at the state, regional, and local levels, and was highlighted by his tenure as State Superintendent of Public Instruction for Michigan from 2015 until his untimely death in 2018; and

WHEREAS, prior to his appointment as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Brian J. Whiston served as Superintendent of Dearborn Public Schools—the third largest school district in Michigan—where his innovation and collaboration became a catalyst for marked improvement in student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Brian J. Whiston's dedication to student learning started long before his time in Dearborn. During his 11 years as Director of Government and Community Services for the Oakland County Intermediate School District, he consistently demonstrated his ability to work with state government to bring financial resources to schools; led his department to improved student achievement; and helped make all schools in the county successful. He also served as a local school board member for 17 years and held the position of Treasurer and President-Elect of the Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). He was elected President of the PTSA before stepping down upon his appointment as the Superintendent at Dearborn; and

WHEREAS, Brian J. Whiston's leadership to foster a holistic, inclusive, and innovative approach to education required skill and courage as he led the effort to make Michigan a Top 10 education state in 10 years; working collaboratively with educators, students, parents, business, labor, and policy leaders in Michigan to forge the goals and strategies that will drive achievement and success for Michigan in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and

WHEREAS, Brian J. Whiston was the architect of the groundbreaking Partnership Model of working with struggling schools to craft partnership agreements with state, regional, and local organizations and resources to help improve the academic outcomes of their students; and

WHEREAS, Brian J. Whiston was a key driver in closing the talent gap in Michigan through the adoption and early implementation of the Career Pathways Alliance and the Marshall Plan for Talent; and

WHEREAS, Brian J. Whiston led the Michigan Department of Education to keep a total focus on providing a quality education for every child in Michigan, and fostered a culture at the department of inclusive decision-making; customer service; cross-agency collaboration; professional development; self-empowered innovation and improvement; and love and appreciation of each employee's daily work; and

WHEREAS, Brian J. Whiston's impact on the Michigan Department of Education; Michigan's system of education and talent development; educators and students will be felt for many generations in Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Rick Snyder, Governor of the State of Michigan, pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963 and laws of the State of Michigan, do hereby order that the state-owned fountain structure, on the Capital Plaza between the John A. Hannah Building and the Ottawa Building, situated on the vacated portion of Michigan Avenue between blocks 104 and 107 of the original plat of the City of Lansing, be named and shall henceforth be known as the "Brian J. Whiston Memorial Fountain," and that all state departments and agencies cooperate in the suitable marking and identification of that structure in honor of this eminent Michigan citizen.

This Order shall be effective upon filing.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the state of Michigan this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August, in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand Eighteen.

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RICHARD D. SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

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SECRETARY OF STATE