

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
October 3, 2022**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR JAYPRAKASH B. SHAH
A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs, Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

2. **Introduction:** In accordance with Article IX of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, honorary degrees may be awarded by the Board of Trustees in recognition of distinguished accomplishment and service within the scope of the arts and letters, sciences, professions, and public service as recognized and supported by the University. The awarding of honorary degrees reaffirms Oakland University's scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and ties the University to the community at large.

Jayprakash "Jay" Shah is the founding president of Leelayan, Inc. and inventor of the No Bend™ Shoes. No Bend™ Shoes were designed for people with disabilities who cannot bend or feel their feet and have difficulties putting their shoes on. The no-bend technology allows the shoes to bend and be put on hands-free, without requiring the owner to bend their body. This makes the product ideal for people with limited range of motion, acute injuries, arthritis, balance issues, back pain, and other health concerns.

Mr. Shah is past president and chairman emeritus of Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc., a consulting engineering and surveying firm that specializes in infrastructure, land development, and transportation. He is also the past CEO of Somat Engineering of Ohio, Inc., a company that delivers sustainable infrastructure solutions and services. He currently serves as managing general partner for Jay Shah Associates, LLC, an engineering management consulting firm.

Jay has a long history of using his expertise in engineering and business to improve our local communities. From 1983-2016, he served on the board of directors for the Economic Development Corporation for Oakland County. He also served as chairman of the Oakland County Building Authority where, for six years, he led building projects designed to benefit individuals and families in Oakland County.

Despite demanding professional responsibilities, Mr. Shah regularly contributes his time to volunteering efforts. He serves as a mentor to students at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. He is also a volunteer in the Mitch Albom-Brightmore neighborhood where he helps address urban blight in Detroit.

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Jay's personal mission to empower the next generation inspired him to serve as a mentor for Winning Futures, a Metro Detroit organization that champions the success of high school students. He has also served as a community volunteer for Engineers Without Borders, a global organization that seeks to empower communities to meet their basic needs through engineering projects.

In 2010, Mr. Shah was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to serve on the Oakland University Board of Trustees. He served in this role until 2014 and provided critical leadership in advancing the mission of the university. Jay holds a Master in Business Administration from the University of Detroit Mercy and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Wayne State University. Wayne State University named him a recipient of the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Achievement Award and, in 2002, inducted him into the Wayne State University Engineering Hall of Fame. In addition, he is also the recipient of the Community Service Award from the National Federation of American Indian Association and the Leadership Award from the National Sclerosis Society.

Jay's leadership and professional success, both locally and nationally, have made a mark on the lives of hundreds of people. He has distinguished himself as an extraordinary business leader and continues to enrich our community and our university through his volunteering efforts and service.

3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and its ties to the wider community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has recommended approval of the recipient to receive an Honorary Degree.
8. **Recommendation:**
RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* to Jayprakash B. Shah.

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9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the President
on 9/28/, 2022 by



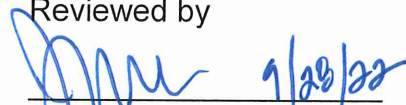
Britt Rios-Ellis, M.S., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 9/29, 2022
to the Board for Approval by



Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Reviewed by



Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees