

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 24, 2014**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR LANA POLLACK
A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs, Office of the Senior 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.

Ms. Lana Pollack has significantly contributed at the community, state, national and international levels. The nominators state that "[B]y honoring Ms. Lana Pollack, OU will ally itself with a champion for positive change in Michigan, a politician and public policy leaders who has brought more equality to Michigan citizens and who has strived to protect our natural resources and environment."

Ms. Pollack began her career as an educator in the Ann Arbor public schools where she taught dance and social studies but she was also engaged as a political volunteer and through these experiences she was inspired to run for the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education in 1979 so that she could "promote change as a public official." Three years later, she was elected to represent Washtenaw County in the Michigan Senate where she served on the Appropriations, Finance, Education, Criminal Justice and Urban Affairs Committees. During two of her three terms in the Senate, she was the only Democratic woman senator and was only the fourth woman ever elected to the State Senate. She is best known for being a leading advocate for children and women's rights during her time in the state senate. Some of the major legislation shepherded by Pollack includes, the Polluter Pay law that forced polluters to pay for environmental clean ups saving taxpayers \$100,000,000, the "Golf Club Law" that allowed women's equal access to tee-times and club facilities, and a law prohibiting corporal punishment in Michigan Public Schools. Pollack also initiated statewide coalitions to reduce teenage pregnancy, STDs and AIDS and to reduce gun violence. Ms. Pollack was selected as legislator of the year by the Michigan Credit Union League, the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, The Michigan Environmental Defense Council, the Association for Children's Mental Health, the Association for Retarded Citizens and the Michigan Association of Regions.

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After retiring from politics, Ms. Pollack's activities became more focused on the environment. In 1997 she became president of the Michigan Environmental Council which is coalition of environmentally concerned organizations with a mission of protecting the Great Lakes as well as Michigan's natural resources and environment. Through her leadership, the council's budget increased from \$320 thousand to more than \$2 million and an endowment was established but the group also became a force in environmental policy in Michigan. The group also became known as an authority on the auto industry's impact on the global environment during her years as CEO. She has served on the Michigan National Resources Trust Fund Board since 2002 and in this role aids in distributing \$35-\$50 million each year to "protect, purchase and enhance parkland and open space for preservation and recreation." In 2010, Ms. Pollack was nominated to the International Joint Commission by President Barack Obama and was subsequently confirmed by the Senate. This commission was established by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and as a commissioner, she "helps prevent and resolve disputes and advises the governments of Canada and the United States, especially in regard to the boundary waters shared by these two countries." Her lifelong commitment to public services is inspirational and aspirational to students. She has received national recognition for her contributions and is a member of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

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 Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has recommended approval of the recipient to receive an Honorary Degree.

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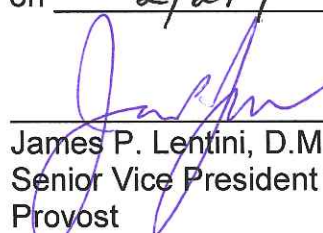
8. Recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws *Honoris Causa*, to Lana Pollack.

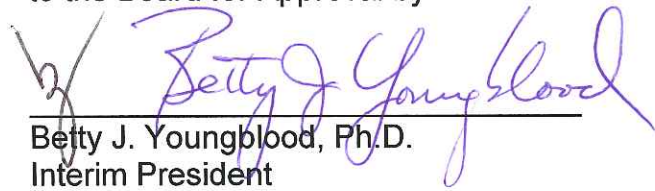
9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the President

on 2/21/, 2014 by


James P. Lentini, D.M.A.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and
Provost

Recommendation on Feb. 21, 2014
to the Board for Approval by


Betty J. Youngblood, Ph.D.
Interim President