

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
October 14, 2019**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR SHEILAH CLAY
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.

Sheilah Clay served as President and CEO of Detroit's Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) for 22 years. The Honorary Degree Committee is impressed by Clay's recognition as one of the most influential community leaders of our time. She serves as a role model for those who aspire to be leaders in community service and healthcare. The committee is particularly impressed with her tremendous efforts to address homelessness and mental health issues. Under her helm, the historic Bell Building was converted into permanent housing for homeless people and other vulnerable populations. Additionally, a new \$20 million project will provide housing and health services to more community members in need. Clay's accomplishments that greatly impressed the committee include:

- Serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Neighborhood Services Organization
- Leading a \$52 million dollar campaign to support the renovation of the Bell Building for vulnerable populations
- Leading a \$20 million dollar campaign for a 2019 NSO residence project.
- Serving as a Board member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago-Detroit
- Serving as Board member of the Michigan Nonprofit Association
- Serving as a Boarding member for the Southeastern Michigan Public Policy Task Force
- Serving on the Board of the Non-Profit Leadership Collaborative of Michigan
- Harvard Business School Club
- Serving on the Board of Directors of the Opportunity Services Fund
- Founding of the Farmington African American Parent Network
- Receiving the McGregor Fund Eugene Miller Fellowship
- Receiving Oakland County 2012 NAACP Hall of Fame Award
- Receiving the 2012 and 2014 Women of Excellence Award from the Michigan Chronicle

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- Receiving the King Davis Award for Leadership in Promoting Diversity and Reducing Disparities from the College for Behavioral Health Leadership of New Mexico
- Receiving the 2013 Women of Vision Award from the Plymouth Church of Christ and the 2013 Community Service Award from the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church
- Presenting leadership best practices to students at Oakland University's Honors College since 2014

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.

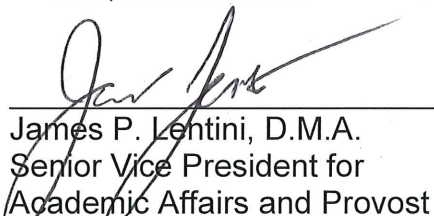
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has recommended approval of the recipient to receive an Honorary Degree.

8. **Recommendation** RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities *Honoris Causa* to Sheilah Clay.

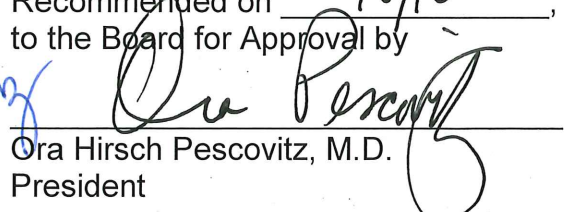
9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the President

on 10/08, 2019 by


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

Recommended on 10/10, 2019
to the Board for Approval by


Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President