

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
APRIL 6, 2020**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR NAJAH BAZZY**

**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.

Najah Bazy, RN, is a global leader in medical ethics, philanthropy, nursing and interfaith dialogue. She founded Zaman International in 1996 to help serve vulnerable citizens, including Syrian refugees and single women and children, in Detroit and twenty-two communities throughout Southeast Michigan. Through Zaman International, Bazy has helped more than 180,000 people by providing critical services such as a food pantry, clothing donations, crisis assistance, literacy and job training and disaster relief partnerships, to name a few. In addition, Bazy is the CEO of Diversity Specialists and Transcultural Health Care Solutions. Under her leadership, the organization conducts workshops for health care administrators, practitioners, educators and policymakers on cultural and spiritual considerations for service delivery, ethical decision-making, staff training and end-of-life care. Additional endeavors and accomplishments include:

- Led Zaman International in opening a Culinary Arts Training Center to offer nutrition and culinary classes as well as meals for client members
- Founding member of the Islamic Institute of America in Dearborn
- Co-founder of the Muslim Youth Connection
- Senior advisor for the Young Muslim Association of the Islamic Center of America
- Featured in documentaries and highly sought speaker on the topic of responding to cultural differences in America's diverse communities
- Recipient of the 2018 Building Bridges of Understanding Award, Georgetown University
- Named CNN Hero for 2019 for her extraordinary contributions to humanitarian aid
- Profiled on CBS 62's "Eye on the Future: The Power of Women"

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- Has engaged more than 450 community partners and 6000 volunteers demonstrating passion can inspire others to action
- Author of *The Beauty of Ramadan*
- She is a global leader in addition to her local work
- Defined by compassion and leadership

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 Najah Bazy.

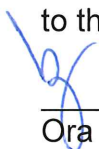
9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the President

on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 by

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

Recommended on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020  
to the Board for Approval by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President