

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 15, 2021**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR DENNIS PAWLEY
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.

Dennis Pawley is a native Michigander with roots in Milan, MI. As a member of Oakland University's inaugural class, his ties to Oakland University also reach all the way back to its inception. While he spent time away from the University to serve the nation in the Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), he returned to school in 1982 and he earned his undergraduate degree from the Human Resource Development program in the School of Education and Human Services. From that time until the present, Dennis Pawley has left his mark on both the automotive industry and Oakland University.

Notable among his work experiences are his positions as Vice President for Otis Group (United Technologies), Vice President for Manufacturing at Mazda Motor Corporation and the former Executive Vice President of Manufacturing for DaimlerChrysler in North America where he was responsible for more than 80,000 employees in 12 car and truck assembly plants, along with five manufacturing technical centers and eighteen component stamping and powertrain plants in the United States and Canada.

During his 30 years with the automotive industry, Mr. Pawley also successfully managed all labor relations activities in North America and served as a member of the Corporate Executive Committee. Mr. Pawley is highly regarded throughout the industry for developing, promoting and institutionalizing the Chrysler Operating System, which used lean operating methodology to streamline procedures and maximize productivity. These processes revolutionized the automotive sector in the 1980s. These methods remain intact and important today as they led to enhanced productivity and increased profitability throughout the industry.

His passion for lean thinking also influenced his philanthropic contributions. In 2002, he and his wife Carlotta, funded a \$1 million endowment to establish the Pawley Lean Learning Institute at Oakland University.

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The curriculum for the Pawley Lean Learning Institute was not only developed in an interdisciplinary fashion by the School of Business Administration, the School of Engineering and Computer Science and the School of Education and Human Services, it continues to provide students from each of these disciplines (and beyond) with knowledge and applicable skills in Lean learning principles, systems and practices. This is an example of one of many impactful contributions which total more than six million dollars.

Pawley Hall (which houses the School of Education and Human Services) was named in recognition of his leadership and support of the University. He also received Oakland University's Alumni Association's Alumni Service Award (2003) and Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award (2001).

In addition to his philanthropic activities, the University has also benefited from his visionary leadership and tireless efforts to support the continued development and growth of the University. Dennis Pawley is a former three-term member of Oakland University's Board of Trustees (where he served as both Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board). On the completion of his term in 2010, the Board of Trustees commended him for his "unique professional expertise in innovative effective strategies, Total Quality Management, problem solving, consensus building, labor relations, and expanded funding options" and expressed their "deep appreciation and gratitude." He is also a former director of the OU Foundation.

Mr. Pawley's commitment to community service, investment, and leadership extend well beyond Oakland University. He has served as a trustee of the Chrysler Institute of Engineering, the Chrysler Corporation Fund and the Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan. He was also inducted into the Manufacturing Hall of Fame in 2010 and the Shingo Award Academy in 1998. Dennis Pawley is one of those rare individuals whose scope, breadth and depth of his educational, philanthropic, and community service contributions to and leadership within Southeast Michigan have significantly and positively impacted several different stakeholder groups.

In addition to all of these many accomplishments, those supporting this recommendation describe Dennis Pawley as "an enjoyable person to spend time with. He is positive, good-humored, tells a good story or two, and is a keenly observant individual."

Dennis Pawley's record of outstanding leadership in business and philanthropy has significantly contributed to humankind's commercial and intellectual betterment and merit the conferral of the honorary degree Doctor of Science Honoris Causa.


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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 Dennis Pawley.

9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the President
on 2/11/, 2021 by



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

Recommended on 2-12, 2021
to the Board for Approval by



Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President