

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 7, 2025**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR MICHAEL SHAPIRO
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.

Mr. Michael Shapiro demonstrates the high level of achievement and service this award is meant to recognize, as evidenced by a strong track record of success and leadership as principal/owner of M. Shapiro Real Estate Group and co-founder of Lautrec Limited as well as his outstanding achievements in business and his commitment to community service and philanthropy.

Born in a displaced persons camp as his parents escaped the Nazi genocide, He was two years old when he came to the United States. He has committed much of his adult life to honoring his parents (who survived the holocaust) and the memory of those who did not.

Michael is a prominent leader in the real estate industry, but his legacy extends far beyond property development. He has a passion for making a difference that is shown in his commitment to community, service and philanthropy. He has served as a governance member of The Jewish Hospice of Chaplaincy Network. He was previously appointed by President George W. Bush as a council member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He served an appointment to the City of Pontiac Silverdome Committee and has been a member of the Board of Councilors of the USC Shoah Foundation (Institute for Visual History and Education), Board of Directors of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Advisory Board of Directors of the Kellogg Eye Center of the University of Michigan and Chairman of the Wellness Committee at Cleveland Clinic. He played a pivotal role in establishing crucial medical facilities like the Sara and Asa Shapiro Heart and Vascular Intensive Care Unit at Beaumont Hospital.

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In addition, he made significant contributions to the educational sector through initiatives like the Mickey Shapiro Opportunity Scholarship Endowment at Ferris State University. These efforts serve as a testament to his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others.

In 2017 he was honored with the Max M. Fisher Award for Outstanding Philanthropist by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Mickey may say, however, that the highlight of his life was the 2022 release of the film, "My Name is Sara." He was the executive producer of the film which tells the story of his mother, Sara. Sara grew up with her parents and three brothers in Koretz (Korets), in what was then Poland, and is now Ukraine. After escaping a Jewish ghetto in Poland, year-old Sara hid in plain sight, passing as an orthodox Christian in the Ukrainian countryside where she was taken in by a farmer and his wife who did not know her true identity. "My Name Is Sara" tells the story of her courage and harrowing journey. The movie provides the platform for communities to engage in constructive conversations that are as important today as during any other time in history. Following the release of the movie, Michael was awarded a 2023 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

We recommend that Michael Shapiro be awarded a Doctor of Business, *honoris causa* from the School of Business Administration at the 9:00 AM ceremony on Friday, May 2, 2025.

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.

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8. Recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees award the honorary degree of Doctor of Business *Honoris Causa* to Michael Shapiro.

9. Attachments: None.

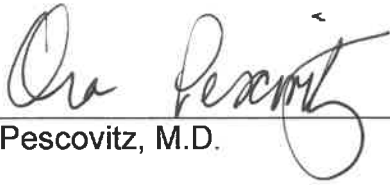
Submitted to the President

on 1/28/25, 2025 by



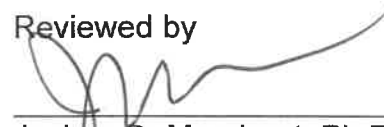
Kevin J. Corcoran, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 1/30, 2025
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