

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 11, 2025**

**COMMENDATION OF THE DON AND JAN O'DOWD GRADUATE AWARD
TO MIRANDA UMBRAS
Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs and Graduate School.
2. **Introduction:** The Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award is presented annually to a graduate student who has made outstanding contributions through exemplary leadership and/or service at Oakland University and/or the surrounding community. In particular, the student chosen must exemplify traits such as intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm, leadership, compassion, and dedication to their field of study. The resolution set forth below is submitted for consideration and approval in honor of Miranda Umbras, recipient of the 2025 Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award.
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees recognizes the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award recipient for their outstanding achievements.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award recipient exemplifies superior academic and co-curricular achievement by a graduate student. Their accomplishments reflect the highest University standards of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship and serve as an outstanding example for the entire campus community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Graduate Council reviews Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award candidates and recommends a nominee for final approval to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

Commendation of the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award to Miranda Umbras
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 11, 2025
Page 2

8. Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Miranda Umbras entered Oakland University to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Movement Science within the School of Health Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Umbras has demonstrated academic excellence and an unwavering commitment to advancing knowledge in the field of exercise physiology, with a particular focus on pediatric cardiac rehabilitation for children with congenital heart disease. She has earned three degrees from Oakland University and has remained actively engaged in the campus community for over a decade; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Umbras has shown exceptional leadership at Oakland University, serving as a mentor to graduate students and directing the Health Sciences ECLIPSE program, a professional development initiative that fosters interprofessional collaboration in healthcare. She also played a critical role in organizing Oakland University's first summer camp for high school students interested in health professions, ensuring its success through her leadership and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Umbras has extended her leadership beyond campus by serving on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Society for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, where she has been an advocate for pediatric cardiac rehabilitation. She has presented research at state and national conferences, including a survey study on the feasibility of pediatric cardiac rehabilitation in Michigan, contributing significantly to her field; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Umbras has demonstrated a passion for teaching, having taught both undergraduate and graduate students, developed engaging presentations, and provided mentorship to doctoral students in research methodologies and literature management. She has also volunteered her expertise in pediatrics and cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, ensuring that future healthcare professionals are well-prepared for interdisciplinary collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Umbras exemplifies the spirit of the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award through her commitment to service, intellectual curiosity, and dedication to student success. Her contributions to Oakland University and the broader healthcare community have had a lasting impact and will continue to influence the field of human movement science; and

Commendation of the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award to Miranda Umbras
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 11, 2025
Page 3

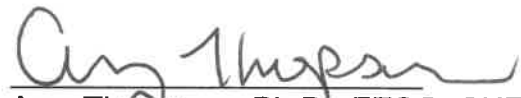
WHEREAS, Dr. Umbras has been selected as a 2025 recipient of the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award, given annually to a top graduate student who has made outstanding contributions through exemplary leadership and service at Oakland University and/or the surrounding community, exhibiting traits such as enthusiasm, compassion, and dedication to their field of study; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Dr. Miranda Umbras for her outstanding commitment to the Oakland University community and beyond; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commends Dr. Miranda Umbras for the quality of her leadership and extends to her its best wishes for continued success in all of her future endeavors.

9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the University President
on 4/3, 2025 by



Amy Thompson, Ph.D., FESG, CHES
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 4/4, 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

