

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

**COMMENDATION OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD
TO SHARDE' CASSANDRA FORD**

Recommendation

- 1. Division and Department:** Student Affairs & Diversity.
- 2. Introduction:** The Human Relations Award was established in 1990 to recognize a graduating senior who has made an outstanding contribution to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution at Oakland University. The resolution set forth below is submitted for consideration and approval in honor of Sharde' Cassandra Ford, recipient of the 2025 Human Relations Award.
- 3. Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees recognizes the Human Relations Award recipient for her outstanding achievements.
- 4. Budget Implications:** None.
- 5. Educational Implications:** The Human Relations Award recipients demonstrate the importance of intercultural understanding and service to the University community. Students receiving this award have displayed significant leadership in advancing intergroup harmony. These contributions include conflict resolution within or among groups and an increased understanding of cultures, groups, and nations.
- 6. Personnel Implications:** None.
- 7. University Reviews/Approvals:** The 2025 Wilson and Human Relations Awards Committee reviews and interviews Human Relations Award candidates and recommends nominees for final approval to the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer and the President.
- 8. Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

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WHEREAS, Sharde' Cassandra Ford entered Oakland University as a student from Cass Tech High School in Detroit, MI to pursue a major in Public Relations and Strategic Communications in the School of Arts and Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ford demonstrated academic excellence by maintaining a 3.38 grade point average; earning Deans List recognition for multiple semesters; and by being recognized by her professors for her diligence, dedication to learning, and strong commitment to civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ford demonstrated campus leadership by helping to establish the Women's Networking Program (WNP), serving as Vice President and assisting in the creation of providing a safe and supportive space for her peers, particularly women of color, to connect, share skills, learn, and collaborate; and by serving as the Marketing Director of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), successfully elevating the organization's visibility through engagement and allowing a space for current students to connect with potential employers and alumni; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ford demonstrated the characteristics of responsible citizenship by volunteering her time, resources, and knowledge to at several nonprofit organizations in Southeast Lower Michigan; and hosting several donation drives, voter registration events, and annual participation in awareness walks for autism and breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ford has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the Human Relations Award given annually to a graduating senior who has made an outstanding contribution to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Ms. Ford for her unwavering commitment to campus life at Oakland University; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commends Sharde' Cassandra Ford for the quality of her leadership and extends to her its best wishes for continued success in all of her future endeavors.

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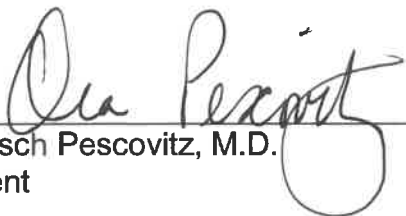
9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the University President
on April 1, 2025 by



Glenn McIntosh
Senior Vice President for Student Affairs &
Chief Diversity Officer

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