

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
June 27, 2025**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR ANIKA NONI ROSE
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.

Ms. Rose demonstrates the high level of achievement and leadership this award is meant to recognize, as evidenced by a remarkable career in the performing arts. Her professional accomplishments and expertise have been recognized through winning a Tony Award for her performance as Emmie Thibodeaux in *Caroline, or Change*, and for being nominated for a Tony Award for her performance as Beneatha Younger in *A Raisin in the Sun*. Rose has earned an AFI Ensemble Award, a SAG Award nomination, and a Grammy Award nomination for her performance as Lorell Robinson in "Dreamgirls". In addition, Rose is a nine-time NAACP Image Award nominee. Rose has voiced many audiobooks, performed sold-out concerts, and sung at Carnegie Hall and the Vatican.

Anika Noni Rose has more than 70 film and TV credits and is best known for voicing 'Princess Tiana' in Disney's *The Princess and the Frog*, which featured the first African American Disney 'Princess'. Rose has authored a children's book based on this character, "Tiana's Perfect Plan", to help children deal with disappointment. In 2019, Rose was named the Colonial Williamsburg Revolutionary in Residence for her portrayals of strong, female characters, which have empowered and inspired audiences. Rose received her MFA from American Conservatory Theater and holds an honorary Doctorate from Florida A&M University.

Anika Noni Rose has five Broadway roles to her credit, with four off-Broadway roles to her credit. Rose will have a lead role in the upcoming Encores! Production of *Wonderful Town*, which will run in New York City Center from April 30 through May 11, 2025. Rose's professional success and trailblazing performances are an example for Oakland University students and alumni. Her keynote address at the Keeper of the Dream awards celebration this past January inspired our students, faculty, staff, and guests in attendance. Rose has distinguished herself as a leader in her field.

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It is our suggestion, with your approval, that Anika be awarded a Doctor of Arts, honoris causa, from the College of Arts and Sciences at the School of Music, Theater and Dance ceremony at 9 AM on May 2, 2026.

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 award the honorary degree of Doctor of Arts *Honoris Causa* to Anika Noni Rose.

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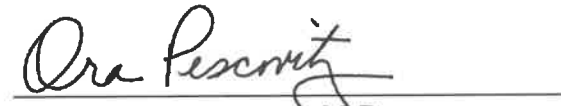
9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the President
on 6/16, 2025 by

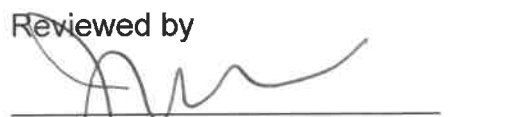


Amy Thompson, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 6/18 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