

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

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR LAURIE MARKER
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.

Dr. Marker is internationally recognized as a pioneering leader in wildlife conservation, a distinguished researcher, and an influential advocate for sustainable coexistence between humans and wildlife. It is not understating her importance to suggest that she is the "Jane Goodall" for conservation of the cheetah. Dr. Marker founded and serves as the Executive Director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), an organization globally respected for its groundbreaking efforts to prevent the extinction of the cheetah. Under her leadership, the CCF has implemented innovative conservation strategies, including influential community-based programs that effectively mitigate human-wildlife conflicts. Her work has had profound impacts on the local economies, culture, and the cheetah. Her tireless dedication has directly contributed to the stabilization and growth of cheetah populations in Namibia and has inspired similar initiatives worldwide, notably in Somaliland and India, where she actively leads efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade and promote cheetah conservation.

Dr. Marker's prolific academic and public contributions further underline her extraordinary impact. She has authored numerous peer-reviewed scientific articles, advancing knowledge in conservation biology, animal behavior, and sustainable ecosystem management. Her visionary approaches to conservation have earned global recognition, as evidenced by her extensive feature in reputable media platforms, documentaries, and educational films such as "Born to Explore: Namibia – Land of the Cheetah" and "League of Explordinaires." Her acclaimed book, "A Future for Cheetahs," further reflects her commitment to education and global outreach.

Approval of Honorary Degree for Laurie Marker
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
June 27, 2025
Page 2

Recognizing Dr. Marker with an honorary degree from Oakland University would not only acknowledge her exceptional accomplishments but also serve to inspire current and future generations of students, conservationists, and global citizens. Her life's work embodies the principles of innovation, leadership, and humanitarian service that Oakland University celebrates. We recommend that Laurie Marker be awarded a Doctor of Science, honoris causa, from the College of Arts and Sciences at the 2 PM ceremony on May 2, 2026.

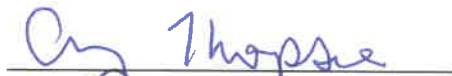
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, 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 Science *Honoris Causa* to Laurie Marker.

Approval of Honorary Degree for Laurie Marker
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
June 27, 2025
Page 3

9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the President
on 6/16, 2025 by



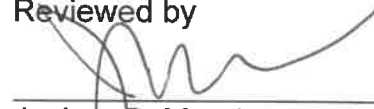
Amy Thompson, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

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