

Naming Opportunity for the Honors College

A Recommendation

1. **Division and Department:** Office of the President, Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, University Advancement
2. **Introduction:** In accordance with the Board of Trustees (Board) approved Gift Policy (Board Policy), naming opportunities shall be presented to the Board for their approval for the naming of buildings and academic units. The University has adopted Administrative Policy and Procedure 500 entitled Gifts, Pledges and Grants (Administrative Policy) that is in all material respects identical to the Board Policy. The Board Policy and Administrative Policy are referred to collectively as the "University's Gift Policies."

The University's Gift Policies recognize that naming gifts are rare philanthropic opportunities to make gifts that will transform the University in some way, and may create a legacy with a person, a family, or an organization for an extended period of time, perhaps in perpetuity.

With respect to naming a college or school within the University, the University's Gift Policies provide that "[t]he gift required to name a college or school will be determined by the VPUA, Provost, and President and recommended to the BOT for final acceptance of the gift."

The Board revised the Board Policy at a special meeting on August 29, 2025 to provide that the President and/or the President's designee(s) may negotiate and execute agreements concerning the naming of buildings, academic units, and the college or schools, before the Board has approved the naming opportunity or accepted the underlying gift if the agreements include a provision stating that (i) the University's acceptance of the agreement is contingent upon approval by the Board; and (ii) if the Board does not approve the agreement, then the agreement is void from the beginning as if it had never had any legal effect.

Therefore, the President recommends that the Board approve the presented resolution below to accept a gift from Donna and Walt Young and rename the

3. **Previous Board Action:** None

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4. **Budget Implications:** Endowment distributions will support student research, related travel and research presentations, faculty support of student research, faculty distinction and engaged learning support, leadership development opportunities, and other programs that build on the Honors College community experience, interdisciplinary and expansive worldview, and personalized, immersive and experiential academic curriculum, as determined by the Dean of the Honors College or the Dean's designee(s).
5. **Educational Implications:** Donna and Walt Young are long-standing supporters of the Honors College students and share the vision for its students to aim high and explore disciplinary and interdisciplinary thought. This gift creates a legacy of support for students in future generations to benefit from enhanced learning opportunities to become active partners in shaping our community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** This recommendation was formulated by the President, the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and the Vice President for University Advancement, and reviewed by the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, the Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, and the Assistant Vice President for Strategic Philanthropy.
8. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Donna and Walt Young have a long history of connection to, and support of, the University and are especially interested in supporting the prominence and sustainability of the University's Honors College;

WHEREAS, the Youngs began their support of the Honors College in 1997 when Walt joined the Oakland University Foundation Board and gave their first gifts to the University;

WHEREAS, the Youngs continue to demonstrate tremendous commitment to the University by funding Donna and Walt Young Study Abroad Endowment with over 269 students impacted to date via their generous support;

WHEREAS, the Youngs continue to be champions for the University and its students, and are truly invested in ensuring that students can benefit from their philanthropy for generations to come;

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WHEREAS, the Youngs wish to support student research, related travel and research presentations, faculty support of student research, faculty distinction and engaged learning support, leadership development opportunities, and other programs that build-on the Honors College community experience, interdisciplinary and expansive worldview, and personalized, immersive and experiential academic curriculum, as determined by the Dean of the Honors College or the Dean's designee(s);

WHEREAS, the University and the Youngs executed the following two agreements, both of which provide that they are contingent upon approval of the Board and will be void ab initio and of no force or effect if not approved by the Board: (i) Oakland University Naming Gift Agreement for the Donna and Walt Young Honors College; and (ii) Oakland University Endowment for the Donna and Walt Young Honors College Naming Endowment (collectively, the "Agreements"); and

WHEREAS, the President, Vice President of University Advancement and Provost have determined, and recommend to the Board, that a gift in the amount of Ten Million and 00/100 (\$10,000,000) Dollars is appropriate to name the Honors College; and

WHEREAS, the Agreements provide that the Youngs will make charitable contributions to the University totaling Ten Million and 00/100 (\$10,000,000) to name the Honors College (the "Gift").

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board accepts the Gift, approves the amount of the Gift, and accepts and approves the Agreements; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the University's Honors College will be named as follows:
"Donna and Walt Young Honors College"

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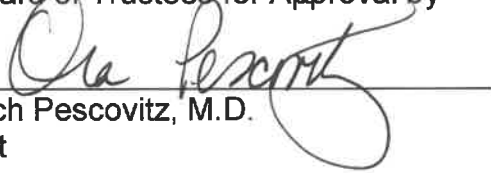
9. **Attachments:** none

Submitted to the President
on 10/10, 2025 by



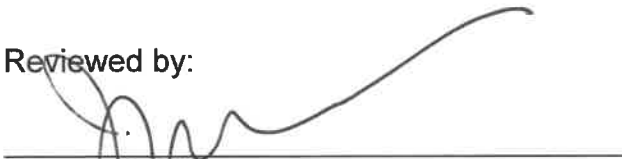
Mike Westfall
Vice President for University Advancement

Recommended on 10/9, 2025
to the Board of Trustees 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