

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 9, 2018**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR DAVID T. FISCHER
A Recommendation**

- 1. Division and Department:** Academic Affairs, Office of the Senior 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.

David T. Fischer is a businessman and humanitarian who has given a lifetime of service to Greater Detroit, Oakland University, and the American Auto Industry. Fischer grew up in Detroit and entered the family business, Suburban Oldsmobile, in 1967. He is now chairman and CEO of the Suburban Collection, the largest privately held automotive group in Michigan and the 15th largest in the United States. The Suburban Collection has more than 48 locations and has grown beyond Oldsmobile to include 34 other brands and has diversified to include collision centers, accessories distribution centers, and fleet management and retrofitting services. His business can be found in Michigan, the Midwest, California, Florida and Canada.

Fischer, his wife, Jennifer and the Suburban Collection, are actively engaged in the local community. His community work and philanthropy has focused on fighting cancer, helping children, and improving education both in Southeast Michigan and in other areas. He also has supported the arts. Some of the organizations he has assisted include the American Cancer Society, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, The United Way, the Detroit Public Safety Foundation, and Forgotten Harvest. The employees at the Suburban Collection are encouraged to participate in their communities and have participated in blood drives for the American Red Cross and raised money for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

Fischer is dedicated to education and has supported Oakland University, the College of Creative Studies, and the University of Michigan. He is a Trustee Emeritus of Oakland University where he served two terms (1992-2008). He has donated philanthropically to Oakland University and, while a member of the Board of Trustees, supported a number of projects that changed the course of Oakland University, including the campus Recreation Center, an addition to Vandenberg Hall to support the Honors College, Pawley Hall, the Math and Science Center, and the expansion of the Oakland Center. He also was involved in the University's move to Division I Athletics and the establishment of the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine.

Recently, Fischer was nominated to serve as Ambassador to Morocco by President Donald Trump.

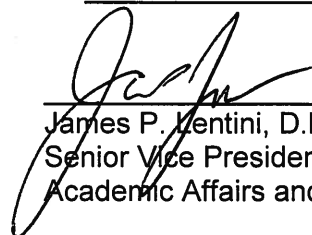
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The Honorary Degree Committee was impressed by Fischer's deep commitment to our region and the auto industry, and his significant contributions to Oakland University, other higher education institutions, and support for a variety of arts and charitable organizations. His nominator, Dean Louay Chamra, states that "the impact of Fischer's dedication and vision in every facet of his career cannot be overstated. The faculty, students, and staff of Oakland University, residents of the State of Michigan, and the entire automotive industry all owe him a great debt. His efforts and unrelenting commitment to the development of our community have been nothing short of astonishing. David T. Fischer has distinguished himself as a truly remarkable member of the Oakland University family..." The Honorary Degree Committee concurs and recommends Mr. Fischer for the honorary degree Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa*.

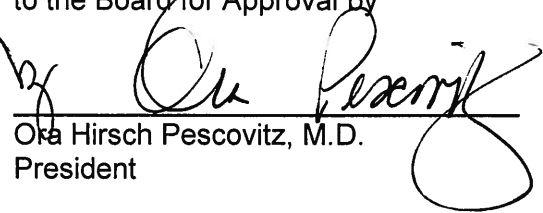
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and its ties to the wider community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Senior 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 awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* to David T. Fischer.
9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the President

on 3/29, 2018 by


James P. Ventini, D.M.A.
Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 3/29, 2018
to the Board for Approval by


Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President