

Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
February 10, 2020

**APPOINTMENT OF LINDA PAVONETTI TO THE RANK  
OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR**

**A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.
2. **Introduction:** In 1988 the Board of Trustees (Board) created the faculty rank of Distinguished Professor. Upon recommendation of the President and Provost, the Board may appoint individuals to the rank of Distinguished Professor for the duration of the individual's active service at Oakland University. Appointments to distinguished professorships are based on the candidate's efforts and accomplishments in the areas of teaching, intellectual contributions and service, giving consideration to the programmatic and institutional setting of the candidate's work at Oakland and the nature of the candidate's assignments and responsibilities, the quality of the candidate's accomplishments and the relation of all the foregoing factors to the objectives of the area or departments, the goals of the college or school, and the mission and long-range vision of the University.

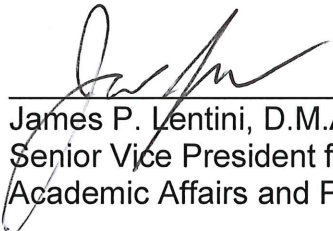
A selection committee of their peers recommended the following faculty member, Linda Pavonetti, for approval to Dr. James P. Lentini, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to the appointment of Distinguished Professor.

3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board has periodically appointed individuals to the rank of Distinguished Professor at Formal Sessions of the Board.
4. **Budget Implications:** A one-time salary stipend of \$2,500 plus an annual supplies and services allocation of \$1,500, up to five years, for the Distinguished Professor will be paid from the Provost's Discretionary Fund.
5. **Educational Implications:** Recognition of a distinguished faculty member's long-standing dedication to the mission of the institution reinforces a culture that is devoted to excellence in teaching, research, creative endeavor, and service.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.

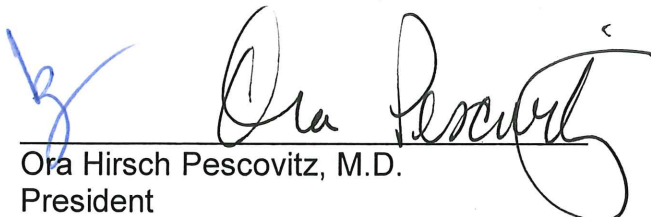
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7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** A selection committee of her peers recommended Linda Pavonetti in the School of Education and Human Services for approval to Dr. James P. Lentini, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, to the appointment of Distinguished Professor.
8. **Recommendation:** RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Linda Pavonetti, Professor of Education, to the rank of Distinguished Professor, effective August 15, 2020.
9. **Attachment:** Biography of Linda Pavonetti.

Submitted to the President  
on 1/24, 2020 by

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

Recommendation on 1/24, 2020  
to the Board for Approval by

  
Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President

## Attachment A

Linda Pavonetti, Professor of Education, joined the faculty of Oakland University in 1997 after completing her Ed.D. at the University of Houston and a more than 20-year career as an elementary teacher in Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois and Texas. She is an internationally recognized expert in children's literature, literacy, and literacy instruction. She has received recognition for her work in service of children's literature, teaching and mentorship and research. At Oakland University she has been twice nominated for the University's Teaching Excellence Award, has been recognized by student athletes and has received recognition for her research and service. She was promoted to associate professor in 2003 and professor in 2012. She served as chair of her department from 2011-2014 and was reappointed as chair in 2018 for a term that ends in 2021.

In the area of research, Dr. Pavonetti has an "impressive and cohesive" body of work that has resulted in international recognition. She has published two books, *Bridges to Understanding: Envisioning the World through Children's Books* and *Children's Literature Remembered: Issues, Trends, and Favorite Books*. Executive Director of International Board on Books for Young People, Elizabeth Page, described the *Envisioning the World* as "a wonderful glimpse into the international world of children's literature, and a must for anyone working in the field." In addition to her books, she has several book chapters, has authored and co-authored numerous refereed and invited journal articles, and has given numerous international, national, regional, state and local presentations. She also has reached a broader audience through her reviews of children's books. She has received grants from the University of Wroclaw, the American Library Association, and the Association for Library Service to Children. Dr. Pavonetti has received the Federal Republic of Germany's *Ministry of Foreign Affairs Fellowship*, a research fellowship to the *International Youth Library* in Munich, Germany and the *Nami Island International Children's Book Festival Fellowship* sponsored by the International Board on Books for Young People, Korean Committee.

Dr. Pavonetti has achieved preeminence in teaching based upon her passion, commitment to students success and excellent mentorship. She teaches courses in children's literature, the author's and illustrator's art and craft, reading instruction and qualitative methods. She has been described as "genuine, caring, personable, approachable, and an engaging professional with high standards." Former students describe her courses as challenging, but note that she pushes herself to be at her best for her students. They cite her passion for children's literature and her effort to build that same passion in her students. Her students also say that she teaches life lessons in addition to curriculum, underscoring her belief that we can always be better people. Her mentorship has been highly valued by both current K-12 educators and those who are training a new generation of teachers. She has served as a chair of several doctoral committees and served as a member of many others. She encourages students to present at conferences and has invited students to coauthor papers with her.

The breadth and depth of Dr. Pavonetti's service is outstanding. She has served the institution, the region and the profession. She has had a significant impact on the curriculum at Oakland University through her membership on the Graduate Council and through her service on the General Education Committee. She has made international contributions to the field of children's literature through her active involvement in the International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY) and nationally through her work in the United States section of the Board of Books for Young People (USBBY). This organization is dedicated to the goal of bringing peace and understanding through children's literature and to providing children around the globe access to books. Dr. Pavonetti served IBBY as a member of its 10-member executive committee and as Vice President demonstrating her international esteem. She also served as President of USBBY and was awarded the 2019 Alida Cutts Lifetime USBBY membership award for her extraordinary service. Indicative of her expertise in children's literature, Dr. Pavonetti has served on the World Literature Today jury for the 2017 Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature and has been elected to the 2021 John Newbery Medal Award Committee. Her service on both committees are further indications of her international recognition.

Dr. Pavonetti's contributions in research, teaching and service have met the standard of preeminence and are worthy of the title of Distinguished Professor.