

**COMMENDATION OF ALFRED G. WILSON AWARD  
TO MR. JEFFREY DAVID MCDONALD**

**Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Student Affairs.
2. **Introduction:** The Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards are presented annually to an Oakland University senior male and female who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. First awarded in 1965, these honors were designated by Matilda R. Wilson, founder of Oakland University, and Durward B. Varner, Oakland's first chancellor, to recognize those students who not only have achieved academic excellence, but who also have made significant contributions to campus life and demonstrated interest in the social problems of our community and society. The resolution set forth below is submitted for consideration and approval in honor of Mr. Jeffrey David McDonald, recipient of the 2009 Alfred G. Wilson Award.
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees annually recognizes an Alfred G. Wilson Award recipient for his outstanding achievements.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The Alfred G. Wilson Award recipient exemplifies superior academic and co-curricular achievement by a male undergraduate. His accomplishments reflect the highest University standards of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship and serve as an outstanding example for the entire campus community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The 2009 Wilson and Human Relations Awards Committee reviews and interviews Alfred G. Wilson Award candidates and recommends nominees to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the President for final approval.
8. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Mr. Jeffrey David McDonald entered Oakland University as a freshman from Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School in Marine City Michigan to pursue a Physical Therapy degree in the School of Health Sciences; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald demonstrated academic excellence by maintaining a 3.72 grade point average; and has personally enhanced his classroom learning with numerous academic achievements, including serving as an exemplary teaching assistant for the Biology 206 Anatomy lab, which has greatly enriched his scholarly pursuits; and is noted by his instructors for his diligence and significant dedication to learning; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald demonstrated leadership by serving as a resident assistant for the Department of University Housing, acting as a compassionate and highly-responsible role model and mentor to 50 freshman students, ensuring their experiences at Oakland University were productive, enjoyable and educational; as president of the Pre-Physical Therapy Club, helping his fellow students successfully prepare for graduate school and coordinating enriching guest speakers to enhance their education; as a member of the prestigious Golden Key International Honour Society; and as an ally for the Students, Administrators and Faculty for Equality (S.A.F.E.) organization at the Gender and Sexuality Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald dedicated himself to community service by volunteering with the Alternative Spring Break in New York City, where he served meals to individuals faced with economic challenges at homeless shelters and local soup kitchens; and by serving as a camp counselor for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and as a member of the Muscular Dystrophy Association Stride-and-Ride Team, and working as a Habitat for Humanity participant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the Alfred G. Wilson Award given annually to a graduating senior who has maintained high academic standards, who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership capabilities and involvement in the Oakland University community, and who has expressed social concern; now, therefore, be it

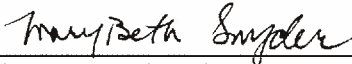
RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Mr. Jeffrey David McDonald for his unwavering commitment to campus life at Oakland University; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commends Mr. Jeffrey David McDonald for the quality of his leadership and extends to him its best wishes for continued success in all of his future endeavors.

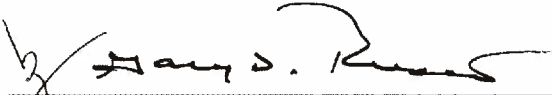
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9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the University President  
on March 17, 2009 by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Beth Snyder  
Vice President for Student Affairs and  
Enrollment Management

Recommended on 3/18, 2009  
to the Board for approval by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary D. Russi  
President

Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
April 1, 2009

**COMMENDATION OF MATILDA R. WILSON AWARD  
TO MS. RENEE MARIE BLACKBURN**

**Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Student Affairs.
2. **Introduction:** The Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards are presented annually to an Oakland University senior male and female who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. First awarded in 1965, these honors were designated by Matilda R. Wilson, founder of Oakland University, and Durward B. Varner, Oakland's first chancellor, to recognize those students who not only have achieved academic excellence, but who also have made significant contributions to campus life and demonstrated interest in the social problems of our community and society. The resolution set forth below is submitted for consideration and approval in honor of Ms. Renee Marie Blackburn, recipient of the 2009 Matilda R. Wilson Award.
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees annually recognizes a Matilda R. Wilson Award recipient for her outstanding achievements.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The Matilda R. Wilson Award recipient exemplifies superior academic and co-curricular achievement by a female undergraduate. Her accomplishments reflect the highest University standards of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship and serve as an outstanding example for the entire campus community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The 2009 Wilson and Human Relations Awards Committee reviews and interviews Matilda R. Wilson Award candidates and recommends nominees to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the President for final approval.
8. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Ms. Renee Marie Blackburn entered Oakland University as a freshman from Warren Woods Tower High School in Warren, Michigan to pursue a major in anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology; and

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WHEREAS, Ms. Blackburn demonstrated academic excellence by maintaining a 3.77 grade point average becoming an Honors College student leader; achieving Dean's list status from 2005 until 2007; receiving the Department of Sociology and Anthropology Warren Award for Academic Excellence and the Oakland University Writing Excellence Award; participating in the 2007 National Science Foundation-funded Summer Program in Anthropological Research Methods, resulting in published research in the *University of Texas North Journal*; receiving an Undergraduate Research Grant concentrating on early 20<sup>th</sup>-century playground sites in Detroit; and presenting her work at Oakland University Festival of Writing and Meeting of the Minds events; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blackburn has demonstrated leadership as a class facilitator and peer mentor in the Honors College; as an Apprentice Teacher; as an Honors College cell-group leader; as a legislator in the Student Congress; as president of Students in Free Enterprise; as President of the French Club and as an officer of the Anthropology Club, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, the Honors College Student Association, Student Program Board, International Allies Organization and Golden Key National Honour Society; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blackburn was active in the community participating in a Students in Free Enterprise program called Bridge to Life, serving as a mentor at two Pontiac high schools and a middle school, helping students remain in school and learn to gain confidence in themselves and their abilities; and by operating a week-long summer camp for disadvantaged high school students on campus; by completing internships with a focus on historic preservation at Meadow Brook Hall and the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse; by participating in the community-service Heidelberg Project; and volunteering as a writing consultant at the Writing Center at Kresge Library; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blackburn has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the Matilda R. Wilson Award given annually to a graduating senior who has maintained high academic standards, who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership capabilities and involvement in the Oakland University community, and who has expressed social concern; now, therefore, be it

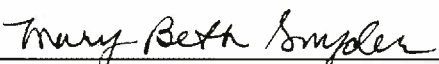
RESOLVED, that the Oakland University Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Ms. Renee Marie Blackburn for her unwavering commitment to campus life at Oakland University; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commends Ms. Renee Marie Blackburn for the quality of her leadership and extends to her its best wishes for continued success in all of her future endeavors.


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9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the University President  
on March 17, 2009 by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Beth Snyder  
Vice President for Student Affairs and  
Enrollment Management

Recommended on 3/18, 2009  
to the Board for approval by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary D. Russi  
President

**COMMENDATION OF HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD TO  
MR. MATTHEW JAMES KELLY**

**Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Student Affairs.
2. **Introduction:** The Human Relations Award is presented annually to a graduating senior who has significantly contributed to the improvement of intergroup relations on Oakland University's campus. The annual award was established on February 1, 1990 in recognition of the need to foster diversity and harmony, and in recognition of the institutional priority of these goals. Recipients must demonstrate commitment to social justice and multicultural understanding. The resolution set forth below is submitted for consideration and approval in honor of Mr. Matthew James Kelly, recipient of the 2009 Human Relations Award.
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees annually recognizes a Human Relations Award recipient for their outstanding achievements.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** Human Relations Award recipients demonstrate the importance of intercultural understanding and service to the University community. Students receiving this award have shown their strong commitment to bringing together diverse groups to achieve a better campus climate particularly in the area of race relations.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The 2009 Wilson and Human Relations Awards Committee reviews and interviews Human Relations Award candidates and recommends nominees to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the President for final approval.
8. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Mr. Matthew James Kelly entered Oakland University as a freshman from Walled Lake Western High School to pursue a music degree in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly has distinguished himself as an untiring and conscientious student leader committed to increasing unity and understanding among diverse groups of students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly demonstrated outstanding leadership capabilities and positively and unselfishly contributed to making a difference in the lives of his peers; served as a resident assistant and as an assistant hall director where he created social change within the floor and community; and immersed himself in the campus community, serving diligently as a student representative on the Academic Standing and Honors Committee the Academic Conduct Committee and the University Conduct Committee where he helped to uphold the academic integrity and civic responsibility valued at Oakland University; was the recipient of the 2007 Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Award, demonstrating his dedication to promoting racial understanding; served as an ally for Students, Administrators and Faculty for Equality (S.A.F.E.) for the Gender and Sexuality Center and as a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual (LGBT) and Communication 101 peer mentor; became highly involved in the Oakland University Leadership Institute class, being invited to attend the Association of College Unions International 7 Conference at the University of Akron, and participated in the national ACUI by becoming a member of the conference planning committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelly has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the Human Relations Award given annually to a graduating senior who has made an outstanding contribution to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Mr. Matthew James Kelly for his unwavering commitment to campus life at Oakland University; and, be it further

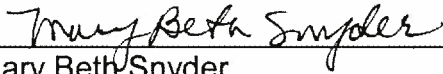
RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees commends Mr. Matthew James Kelly for the quality of his leadership and extends to him its best wishes for continued success in all of his future endeavors.



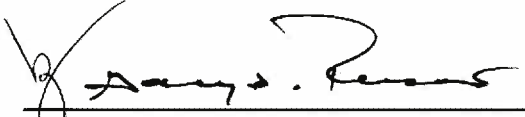
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9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the University President  
on March 17, 2009 by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Beth Snyder  
Vice President for Student Affairs and  
Enrollment Management

Recommended on 3/18, 2009  
to the Board for approval by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary D. Russi  
President