

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 7, 2019**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR LORI BLAKER
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.

Lori Blaker has been described as a visionary and has been honored internationally for her leadership of TTI Global. A native of the Detroit Area, Blaker was unable to finish her degree at Oakland University after she married and gave birth to the first of four boys. Later she became a single mother and worked in her father's automotive business first as a typist and then in different departments learning the business along the way and earning promotions. She was named CEO by her mother a year after her father's death and has expanded the company. In the early 1990s the business earned a few million dollars a year and had close to 30 employees. Today TTI Global is a thriving firm of more than 2000 employees on five continents and almost \$90 million in revenues. Blaker grew the business by expanding her training operations to China and then to other countries.

Blaker's company is known for its dynamic culture and its commitment to diversity and inclusion. Blaker seeks to maintain long lasting relationships with employees and clients and contributes to communities. Blaker was named to Crain's 100 Most Influential List in 2016 and received the Oslo Business for Peace Award. The latter recognized her work to create sustainable business opportunities and train women. For example, she opened a training center and automotive service center in Kabul, Afghanistan and a job training center near Bangalore, India creating jobs for women. They are two of many projects she leads worldwide to train women in business and create sustainable business opportunities in conflict and non-conflict zone. Blaker has also been involved in efforts to stop the sex trafficking of young girls.

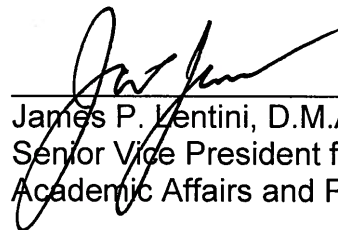
According to Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Blaker "has skill, brains, stamina." The Honorary Degree Committee agrees that Blaker has exhibited the characteristics cited by Patterson and more. Blaker's determination, vision, willingness to listen to others, to value diverse views and people have all contributed to her success in business. The committee was very impressed by Blaker's belief in the power of using

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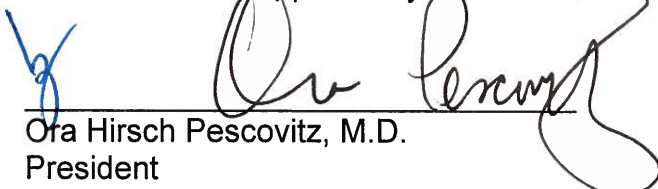
business for good and for the good she has done. The Honorary Degree Committee recommends that Lori Blaker receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* in recognition of her business acumen and visionary leadership, her commitment to diversity and inclusion, and her work on behalf of women and girls around the globe.

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 Lori Blaker.
9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the President
on 2/5, 2019 by


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

Recommended on 2/5, 2019
to the Board for Approval by


Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President