

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
September 11, 2023**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR KYM WORTHY  
A Recommendation**

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

Wayne County Prosecutor, Kym Worthy, has navigated politics and ethics with a compass of integrity and honorable character through some of the most high-profile cases in our state. She is admired for her grit, determination, and unwavering courage to hold others accountable for their actions while upholding the laws that were created to honor the victims through justice.

Ms. Worthy is recognized as the first African-American and the first female to hold the position of Wayne County Prosecutor. She is known for her dedication to upholding the law and is a shining example of a true public servant for the most populated county in our state. She is an accomplished academic, earning an undergraduate degree in economics and political science from the University of Michigan and her law degree from the University of Notre Dame School of Law.

Ms. Worthy represents what a strong female leader is and shows us how to lead with wisdom to achieve purposeful outcomes that drive change for the good of all. She should be recognized for all of her noteworthy accomplishments. A few impressive examples include being named "Woman of Excellence" by the Michigan Chronicle, working as an adjunct professor of criminal law at the University of Detroit Mercy, and being asked and encouraged to run for lieutenant governor, governor, mayor and state attorney general (although Ms. Worthy has declined this support and is committed to focusing her efforts on the work that needs to be done in Wayne County).

**Approval of Honorary Degree for Kym Worthy**  
**Oakland University**  
**Board of Trustees Formal Session**  
**September 11, 2023**  
**Page 2**

More about Ms. Worthy's accomplishments can be found in these resources:

- <https://www.waynecounty.com/elected/prosecutor/biography.aspx>
- <https://www.essence.com/news/the-toughest-women-in-detroit-kym-worthy/>
- <https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2021/03/11/how-kym-worthy-broke-barriers-becoming-first-black-female-wayne-county-prosecutor/>
- [https://www.ted.com/speakers/kym\\_worthy](https://www.ted.com/speakers/kym_worthy)
- <https://www.craigslist.com/awards/kym-worthy>

It is our suggestion, with your approval, that Kym Worthy be awarded a Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa* from the College of Arts and Sciences at the 9:00 AM ceremony on Friday, December 15, 2023. Should you determine that a more appropriate (different) degree be awarded, or at a different ceremony, the Honorary Degree Committee supports your recommendation (without further review).

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 Executive 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 Humanities *Honoris Causa* to Kym Worthy.

Approval of Honorary Degree for Kym Worthy  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
September 11, 2023  
Page 3

9. Attachments: None.

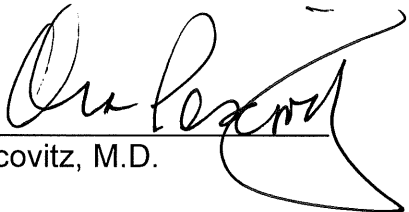
Submitted to the President

on 9/8, 2023 by



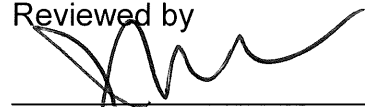
Britt Rios-Ellis, M.S., Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 9/8, 2023  
to the Board 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