

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
June 8, 2024**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR TELVA MCGRUDER  
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.

Nominated by Dean Ball, Ms. McGruder holds both a BS and an MS in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University and is a General Motors (GM) executive responsible for operations at several large manufacturing sites. In his letter, he notes that he marvels at Ms. McGruder's talents, skills and dedication to the service of others, and we at OU are now fortunate to benefit, both organizationally and philanthropically from them.

Given her thoughtful management talents, Ms. McGruder has helped to establish the SHS BOARD (Board Of Advocacy and Resource Development), and as its founding Vice-Chair, Ms. McGruder provides guidance and support for our EHS program, and more broadly, for our Healthology Symposium, for which she serves annually as a sponsor. She also serves on the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability Adviso1y Board, is a member of the Executive Leadership Council, a member of the Catalyst Advisory Board, a member of the Inforum Board of Directors and a Board member of Engineering Tomorrow. She volunteers with SAE International, A World In Motion program that introduces elementary and middle school children to science and engineering. Ms. McGruder is also the lead volunteer organizer for the Girl Scouts of America in Michigan and there was an SHS connection, our Wellness and Health Promotion (WHP) program supports health leadership experiences for young women in the GSA. For the Girl Scouts of America, Ms. McGruder has continued to expand her role, she is now in a key leadership role with the National Committee.

Within GM, President Mary Barra chose Ms. McGruder - a thoughtful and successful Black Woman Engineer into her Executive Cabinet to launch the first Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for General Motors globally.

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While serving as the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer she championed the progress toward a high-performing, inclusive culture while shepherding global impact in diversity. The team fostered partnerships and initiatives that promoted equity inside and outside of the company. Ms. McGruder excelled in this role until recently being repositioned into the global leadership of manufacturing operations. Over this time, Ms. McGruder was featured in a nationally syndicated news story for her community-engaged efforts to inspire young people from under-represented communities to pursue STEM and health education, in planning for their future careers. She was recently featured by WDIV as part of their Women's History Month programming about women shattering glass ceilings and inspiring younger women.

We recommend that Ms. McGruder be awarded a Doctor of Science, honoris causa from the School of Health Science at the 2:00 PM ceremony on Friday, December 13, 2024. 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:**

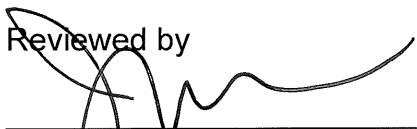
RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* to Telva McGruder.

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9. Attachments: None.

Recommended on 6/21, 2024  
to the Board for Approval by

  
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Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President

Reviewed by  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.  
Chief of Staff and  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees