

Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Special Formal Session  
July 24, 2009

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM**  
**A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs

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.

Oakland University wishes to recognize Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam as a distinguished individual for his achievements as former president of India (2002-2007), his significant contributions as a scientist and engineer, and his visionary focus on the future of India and the world. Prior to his tenure as president, Dr. Kalam's groundbreaking work as an aeronautical engineer led to his leadership in the development of India's first satellite launch vehicle in orbit, and the subsequent development of the nation's guided missile program. He held important posts in the government, including the rank of Cabinet Minister, serving as principal scientific advisor to the country. In addition, Dr. Kalam created a plan for India titled "Technology Vision 2020," described as a road map for transforming the country through an emphasis on technological and economic growth. During and after his presidency he has remained committed to leading India forward through science and technology. His views on India's future as a knowledge superpower have been expressed through his teaching and research, and he currently holds the position of Professor of Technology and Societal Transformation at Anna University at Chennai. Among his several books are *Wings of Fire* (1999); *India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium* (2003); *Scientist to President* (2003); *Ignited Minds: Unleashing the Power Within India* (2003); and *India-my-dream* (2004). Known as the "People's President" during his term of service, Dr. Kalam has been honored with India's highest civilian awards – Padma Bhushan (1981), Padma Vibhushan (1990), and Bharat Ratna, the "Jewel of India" in (1997).

3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.


4. **Budget Implications:** None.

Approval of Honorary Degree  
for A.P.J. Abdul Kalam  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Special Formal Session  
July 24, 2009  
Page 2


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 A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Submitted to the President

on  2009 by  
Virinder K. Moudgil  
Senior Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommendation on \_\_\_\_\_, 2009  
to the Board for Approval by

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