

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 24, 2026**

**COMMENDATION OF THE DON AND JAN O'DOWD GRADUATE AWARD
TO RED DOUGLAS
A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs and Graduate School.
2. **Introduction:** The Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award is presented annually to a graduate student who has made outstanding contributions through exemplary leadership and/or service at Oakland University and/or the surrounding community. In particular, the student chosen must exemplify traits such as intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm, leadership, compassion, and dedication to their field of study. The resolution set forth below is submitted for consideration and approval in honor of Red Douglas, recipient of the 2026 Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award.
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees recognizes the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award recipient for their outstanding achievements.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award recipient exemplifies superior academic and co-curricular achievement by a graduate student. Their 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 Graduate Council reviews Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award candidates and recommends a nominee for final approval to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

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8. Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Red Douglas entered Oakland University to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy in Education: Educational Leadership within the School of Education and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, Red has demonstrated academic excellence and a profound commitment to student success, maintaining a 4.0 GPA while focusing his research on supporting students navigating traumatic life events, specifically bereavement in higher education; and

WHEREAS, Red has shown exceptional leadership at Oakland University, serving in critical roles including Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees, member of the Strategic Planning Leadership Team, and co-founder of the Association for Graduate and Professional Students; and

WHEREAS, Red has demonstrated extraordinary compassion by founding Grizzlies Together in Grief (G2G), a peer support organization created to address the needs of grieving students, effectively bridging the gap between scholarly research and real-world service; and

WHEREAS, Red has dedicated nine years of service to the Oakland University Writing Center, providing more than 5,000 hours of mentorship and support to students, faculty, and staff, and successfully guiding numerous mentees toward their own graduate and doctoral pursuits; and

WHEREAS, Red has extended his impact into the broader community as a fourth-generation resident of Auburn Hills, serving as an Election Inspector and Precinct Chairman and as a member of the city's Historical Society, while also holding international leadership roles in death education and bereavement advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Red exemplifies the spirit of the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award through his intellectual curiosity, empathetic leadership, and tireless dedication to improving institutional systems for the benefit of all students; and

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WHEREAS, Red has been selected as a 2026 recipient of the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award, given annually to a top graduate student who has made outstanding contributions through exemplary leadership and service at Oakland University and the surrounding community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Red Douglas for his outstanding commitment to the Oakland University community and beyond; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commends Red Douglas for the quality of his leadership and extends to him its best wishes for continued success in his future career in educational leadership and advocacy.

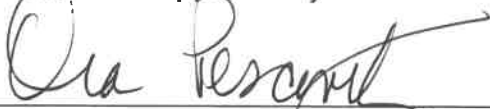
9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the President
on 4/20, 2026 by



Amy Thompson, Ph.D., FESG, CHES
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 4/20, 2026
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

COMMENDATION OF THE DON AND JAN O'DOWD GRADUATE AWARD
TO CHARLES SHAMOUN
A Recommendation

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

2. **Introduction:** The Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award is presented annually to a graduate student who has made outstanding contributions through exemplary leadership and/or service at Oakland University and/or the surrounding community. In particular, the student chosen must exemplify traits such as intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm, leadership, compassion and dedication to their field of study. The resolution set forth below is submitted for consideration and approval in honor of Charles Shamoun, recipient of the 2026 Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award.

3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees recognizes the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award recipient for their outstanding achievements.

4. **Budget Implications:** None.

5. **Educational Implications:** The Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award recipient exemplifies superior academic and co-curricular achievement by a graduate student. Their 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 Graduate Council reviews Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award candidates and recommends a nominee for final approval to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

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8. Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Charles Shamoun is a multi-degree alumnus of Oakland University, having earned both his undergraduate degree and his Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from the School of Nursing, graduating Magna Cum Laude and as a member of the Honors College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shamoun has demonstrated academic excellence and a mission-driven commitment to advancing caregiving science, with a particular focus on the prevalence and impact of health-related social needs on informal care partners of stroke survivors; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shamoun has shown exceptional leadership and innovation by founding NeuroReach, an initiative designed to connect neuroscience researchers, patients, families, and community organizations to increase research accessibility and engagement. He further fostered doctoral student connectedness by creating a social media initiative for Ph.D. nursing students in the online program to facilitate peer support, knowledge sharing, and strengthen community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shamoun has extended his impact beyond campus through extensive community service across Southeast Michigan, delivering educational sessions to stroke survivors and providing free blood pressure screenings. A prolific scholar, he has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications and delivered over a dozen presentations at national and international conferences, including a competitively selected podium talk for the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shamoun has demonstrated a passion for teaching as clinical faculty, where he earned 100% effectiveness ratings while supervising undergraduate nursing students in acute care settings. He has also served as a dedicated preceptor and mentor at level-one trauma centers, helping students and new nurses integrate complex pathophysiology into compassionate, patient-centered practice; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Shamoun exemplifies the spirit of the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award through his intellectual curiosity, leadership, and dedication to nursing science. His work at Oakland University and his commitment to improving the lives of caregivers through rigorous, compassionate inquiry have had a sustained impact on the community; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Shamoun has been selected as a 2026 recipient of the Don and Jan O'Dowd Graduate Award, given annually to a top graduate student who has made outstanding contributions through exemplary leadership and service at Oakland University and/or the surrounding community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Dr. Charles Shamoun for his outstanding commitment to the Oakland University community and beyond; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commends Dr. Charles Shamoun for the quality of his leadership and extends to him its best wishes for continued success as he begins his postdoctoral fellowship in New York City.

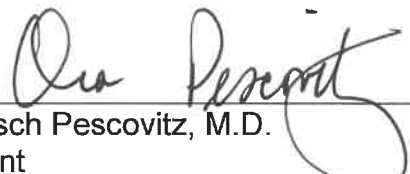
9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the University President
on April 3, 2026 by

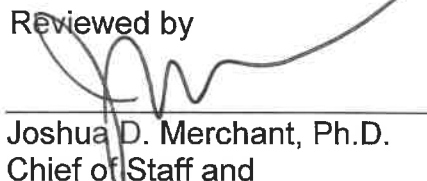


Amy Thompson, Ph.D., FESG, CHES
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 4/7, 2026
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