

Board Meeting
January 31, 2019

AWARD HONORARY DEGREES, URBANA

Action: Award Honorary Doctorate Degrees

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Senate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has recommended that honorary degrees be conferred on the following people at Commencement Exercises on May 11, 2019:

Michael T. Aiken, former Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign -- the honorary degree of Doctor of Science and Letters

Chancellor Aiken was the sixth chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, leading the campus from 1993 until his retirement in 2001. Only one chancellor has served longer. Dr. Aiken was devoted to the excellence of the Urbana campus and undertook many initiatives with a lasting impact still felt today. During Campaign Illinois, he worked to establish more than 100 new endowed faculty positions. He enhanced the undergraduate experience by increasing opportunities for students to study abroad, expanding the number of living/learning communities in the various student residence halls, developed discovery classes for first-year students, and instituted New Student Convocation. Chancellor Aiken worked toward the creation of Research Park on the south campus to provide a vibrant environment for the campus efforts in economic development and innovation. Dr. Aiken was key to establishing the Campustown 2000 Task Force to improve both the physical appearance of Campustown and its safety and livability. Dr. Aiken made a priority of building strong relationships between the university and the greater Champaign-Urbana community. During his tenure, and through his leadership, gateways were built at the boundaries of the campus to serve as doors and windows between the campus and the community. He developed Lincoln Avenue as a portal with the construction of the Hallene Gateway, the Admissions and Records Building, and the Alice Campbell Alumni Center. He made a major investment to improve classrooms through the

Chancellor's Remodeling Initiative and several significant new buildings, including Spurlock Museum, Campbell Hall, and the Admissions and Records Building were constructed or completed during his tenure.

Alan Alda, Actor and Science Educator -- the honorary degree of Doctor of Science

While Alan Alda is widely known for his work as an actor on the medical military show *M*A*S*H*, he is proven to be dedicated to increasing public understanding of science and advancing the field of science communication. Motivated by his own curiosity about the scientific world and his desire to share the excitement of scientific exploration with others, Alda became the host of *Scientific American Frontiers* in 1993, a PBS show that highlighted scientific advances through interviews with researchers. During Alda's 13-year tenure as host, the show was recognized by the Council for Media Integrity for "outstanding contributions to the public's understanding of science and scientific principles." His work helped to bring engaging, accurate scientific content to a generation of viewers, a few of whom eventually appeared as guests on the show after pursuing their own careers in STEM. In 2013, Alda founded the Stony Brook Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science to continue this work on a larger scale. The center provides resources and training to help scientists improve their communication skills, as well as conducting research to identify more effective approaches to public science education. In 2016, in recognition of the work that led to the center's establishment, Alda was awarded the National Academy of Sciences Public Welfare Medal. The Academy honored his "extraordinary application of the skills honed as an actor to communicating science on television and stage, and by teaching scientists innovative techniques that allow them to tell their stories to the public."

Carla D. Hayden, Librarian of Congress -- the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

Carla D. Hayden is the first woman and first African American to be appointed to the post of Librarian of Congress, becoming the 14th Librarian of Congress in 2016. She is passionately dedicated to equity of access to information as illustrated by her outstanding career in libraries. Dr. Hayden previously served as director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore for 23 years where she transformed a deteriorating library system into a vital community service agency. Dr. Hayden began her career with the Chicago Public Library as a library associate and children's librarian from 1973 to 1979 and as the young adult services coordinator from 1979 to 1982. She was library services coordinator for the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago from 1982 to 1987. She served from 1991 to 1993 as deputy commissioner and chief librarian of the Chicago Public Library. She was elected president of the American Library Association (ALA) for 2003 to 2004 and successfully challenged the government's attempt under the USA Patriot Act to gain unwarranted access to library records. She led

development of the ALA Spectrum Scholarship program which actively recruits and provides scholarships to students from diverse backgrounds to assist them in obtaining a graduate degree and leadership positions. Dr. Hayden has garnered numerous awards for her many contributions. She was named to Fortune Magazine's list of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders in 2016 and one of Ms. Magazine's 2003 Women of the Year for her stand opposing the USA Patriot Act. In 2017 she was Time Magazine's First Honoree as part of the multimedia project on 26 trailblazing women who are changing the world. Other 2017 awards include Centennial Award from the Women's National Book Association, North Star Award from the Hurston/Wright Foundation, Library Literacy Lion Honoree by the New York Public Library, and Defense Media Activity Award from the Department of Defense, and the Melvil Dewey Medal from the ALA. In 2018 she was elected to ALA honorary membership, the highest award of the association. As Librarian of Congress Dr. Hayden has reached out to the public in new and innovative ways including social media and digitization to enhance access to the treasures of the Library.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois concurs with these recommendations.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs recommends approval.

The President of the University concurs.