

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
March 11, 2009

Board Meeting  
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AWARD THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION  
TO CARL R. WOESE

Dr. Carl R. Woese is recommended for the Trustees' Distinguished Service Medallion. The Trustees' Distinguished Service Medallion was created to recognize individuals whose contribution to the growth and development of the University of Illinois, through extraordinary service or benefaction, has been of unusual significance.

Stanley O. Ikenberry Professor Carl Woese, Center for Advanced Study Professor of Microbiology, joined the faculty of the University of Illinois in 1964. Professor Woese describes himself as a molecular biologist turned evolutionist. During his time at Illinois he has received numerous accolades for his research, including the 2003 Crafoord Prize in Biosciences given by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the National Medal of Science in 2000, the Leeuwenhoek Medal by the Dutch Royal Academy of Science in 1992, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Award in 1984. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. In 2006, he was elected as a Foreign Associate of the Royal Society.

Professor Woese received the Crafoord prize for the discovery, reported by a team led by him in 1977, of a third domain of life, now known as the Archaea. This work, a milestone in Professor Woese's long-standing program to map out evolutionary

history, disproved the accepted biological theory that all life on Earth belonged to one of two primary lineages. The method used to identify this “third form of life” involved comparing the genetic sequences of a particular molecule central to cellular function, known as ribosomal RNA. Professor Woese’s approach has become the standard one used to identify and classify all living organisms. His scholarship and his research methods have revolutionized scientific views on evolutionary history, led to profound advances in our ecological understanding of the Earth’s biosphere, and have transformed microbiology.

To Carl R. Woese, an extraordinary member of the University of Illinois family, the members of the Board of Trustees take pride and express great joy in presenting the Trustees’ Distinguished Service Medallion.