Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 18, 2024

**10**

Board Meeting

January 18, 2024

# AWARD HONORARY DEGREES, URBANA

**Action:** Award Honorary Degrees

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has nominated the following individuals for conferral of honorary degree awards at the Commencement exercises in May 2024. The chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois System, recommends approval of these nominations.

**James D. Anderson, dean emeritus, William and Jane Marr Gutgsell Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** – the honorary degree award of Doctor of Science and Letters

Dr. James D. Anderson has had a distinguished career in both scholarship and service. He has been part of the University of Illinois for almost one-third of the University’s history and mentored hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students. He is dean emeritus of the College of Education, the William and Jane Marr Gutgsell Professor Emeritus, and was a member of countless committees during his tenure at Illinois.

Dr. Anderson’s impact goes beyond the University. He is widely recognized as an expert on the history of U.S. education and the history of African American education. He has authored more than 80 publications and his book *The Education of Blacks in the South, 1860-1935* (1988) serves as the definitive history on African American education.

Dr. Anderson has received 25 awards and honors throughout his career. In 2012, he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). This prestigious award honored and recognized Dr. Anderson for his lifelong commitment to improving student learning and his extraordinary contributions to research. The AACTE also named their dissertation award after Dr. Anderson to honor his commitment to graduate student development. Dr. Anderson also received the American Educational Research Association’s Presidential Citation, the organization’s highest award in 2020. He also was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2021.

**I-Min Lee, professor of medicine, professor of epidemiology, Harvard University** – the honorary degree award of Doctor of Science

Professor I-Min Lee is arguably the leading physical activity and health researcher in the world. Professor Lee is currently the principal investigator of a long-standing prospective cohort study of 33,000 Harvard alumni begun by Professor Ralph Paffenbarger in the 1960s. In the early 1990s, Professors Lee and Paffenbarger published three landmark articles on the prospective associations between physical activity and cancer risk. Professor Lee also serves as multiple principal investigator of the Women’s Health Study (WHS), originally a clinical trial testing low-dose aspirin and vitamin E for preventing cardiovascular disease and cancer among 40,000 women whose participants now continue to be followed. Within the WHS, Professor Lee is principal investigator of a study that measured physical activity with accelerometers in 18,000 women from 2011 to 2015. Participants are now being followed for various health outcomes. Professor Lee has published more than 450 scientific articles, is the lead editor of the textbook *Epidemiologic Methods in Physical Activity Studies*, and is co-editor of *Physical Activity Epidemiology*. Professor Lee has served on national and international expert panels for developing physical activity guidelines, including the *2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans*, the *2010 WHO Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health*, and the *2013 AHA/ACC Guideline on Lifestyle Management to Reduce Cardiovascular Risk*. Professor Lee is also a member of the steering committee for *The Lancet* Physical Activity series (published in 2012, 2016, and 2021).

In addition to all these contributions to science broadly and to the field of physical activity and health more specifically, Professor Lee’s *Lancet* article published in 2012 deserves special recognition. Using data from more than 100 countries, Professor Lee and colleagues estimated that physical inactivity was responsible for more than 5 million deaths per year worldwide. As of September 29, 2023, this article has been cited 10,180 times on Google Scholar. In addition, the BBC piece “Inactivity as Deadly as Smoking” received widespread attention in the media and is arguably the most divulgated finding of the history of the field of physical activity and health.

Additionally, according to Google Scholar, she has been cited more than 128,380 times and has an H-index of 146.

**Larry Smarr, distinguished professor emeritus, computer science and engineering, University of California San Diego** – the honorary degree award of Doctor of Engineering

Professor Smarr is a physicist and world leader in scientific computing and cyberinfrastructure. His vision and advocacy for creating and linking supercomputers in national centers across the country was critical in laying the foundation for today’s internet.

Professor Smarr has received numerous awards, including The Franklin Institute’s Delmer S. Fahrney Medal for Leadership in Science or Technology, the Telluride Tech Festival Award of Technology, the IEEE Computer Society Tsutomu Kanai Award, the Golden Goose Award, and American Physical Society Fellow. He has also been elected to the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Professor Smarr’s pioneering efforts in computer science have transformed how scientists collaborate and share information and have led to advancements in research that are both interdisciplinary and innovative. It is no exaggeration to state that Smarr’s leadership in developing a high-speed interconnected network of supercomputers has shaped human interconnectivity, and the world as we know it.

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 executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs of the University of Illinois System concurs with this recommendation.

The president of the University of Illinois System recommends approval.