

Board Meeting
January 19, 2017

AWARD HONORARY DEGREE, SPRINGFIELD

Action: Award Honorary Doctorate Degree

Funding: No New Funding Required

The University of Illinois at Springfield Senate has recommended that an honorary degree be conferred on the following person at Commencement Exercises on May 13, 2017. The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois recommends approval of this nomination.

Edgar J. Curtis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Memorial Health System --
the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

Edgar J. Curtis began his career at Memorial Hospital in 1975 as a staff nurse. In his more than forty years of service at Memorial, Mr. Curtis has served in the following positions: Director of Nursing for Nephrology, Administrative Director of Nephrology, Service Line Administrator of Nephrology/Urology, Vice President of Operations, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Memorial Medical Center (MMC) and Executive Vice President and Chief Operation Officer of Memorial Health Systems (MHS).

Under Mr. Curtis's leadership, MHS initiated an expansion project in 2012 called "Advancing Care by Design," that has expanded the facility and transformed patient care with the addition of a new patient care tower, new operating rooms, and an expanded surgical center. The new Memorial Center of Learning and Innovation (2015) includes a state-of-the-art Simulation Center and other education facilities that have enabled MHS to expand professional development opportunities for its employees and expand educational partnerships with the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) and other community partners. In 2014, Mr. Curtis led

MHS to form a collaboration with UIS and the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing to offer a BSN Nursing program at UIS. With this collaboration, students have access to opportunities at Memorial for skills development and pre-professional training while earning their nursing degrees.

Memorial Health Systems, under the leadership of Mr. Curtis, has been the recipient of many national and regional awards for excellence. Some of the notable awards include: MHS was awarded two of the four Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) Quality Excellence Achievement Awards (2016); MMC was the first hospital in Illinois to receive the American Hospital Association McKesson Quest for Quality Award (2016) which honors leadership and innovation in quality improvement and safety; and MMC earned its third Magnet designation (2016) the highest level of national recognition for professional nursing services.

Mr. Curtis has a distinguished record of service and leadership to the health care professions and the Springfield community. He is currently Treasurer and Chair-elect of the Board of the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA) and has served as a member of the Board of Directors. He is a founding member of the Board of BJC Healthcare Collaborative, the Midwest Healthcare Quality Alliance and the Lincoln Land Health Information Exchange. In addition, he serves on the Illinois Board of Higher Education Commission on the Future of the Workforce. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Mr. Curtis has served on the Board of the Central Illinois Foodbank, Board of Directors of the Springfield Urban League, and the United Way of Central Illinois. He currently serves as a member of the Q5 Strategic Leadership Council of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

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 concurs with this recommendation.

The President of the University recommends approval.