

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
January 21, 2021

Board Meeting  
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## AWARD HONORARY DEGREE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Award Honorary Degree

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate has nominated the following person for conferral of an honorary degree at the Commencement exercises in May 2021. The Chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and Vice President of the University of Illinois System recommends approval of this nomination.

**Christopher B. Burke, Civil Engineer** -- the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering

Dr. Christopher Burke is President of Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL), an enterprise which provides a wide range of civil and mechanical engineering services to both public and private-sector clients, and he serves as a leading expert in the area of storm-water management, a critical field given the state of climate change and extreme weather events. The impact of his work has contributed to state-of-the-art practices having implemented and led over 250 water management projects in metropolitan Chicago and throughout the Midwest.

Dr. Burke attended Purdue University where he earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in civil engineering. He founded his company in 1986 which has grown to more than 400 employees, with nine offices located in Illinois and Indiana.

Dr. Burke and his firm are recognized for projects that have made a positive impact in communities such as the Evanston Bikeway, an award-winning effort that was developed using a Complete Street philosophy, promoting environmentally friendly and efficient design to construct a multi-modal

corridor adjacent to Evanston's vibrant downtown and to Northwestern University's campus along Sheridan Road. The primary goal was to improve safety along the corridor for all users including pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and drivers.

He has received Distinguished Member status from the American Society of Civil Engineers as well as the American Public Works Association Top Ten Leaders distinction. He has received the ASCE Edmund Friedman Award, The Illinois Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Western Society of Engineers Charles Ellet Award.

In addition, he received the prestigious Ray K. Linsley award from the American Institute of Hydrology and an honorary doctorate from Purdue. Dr. Burke is the Past-President of the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, ACEC-Illinois, Western Society of Engineers and Illinois Association of Environmental Professionals. He has chaired the Chicagoland Engineers Week for the past seven years.

Dr. Burke has been a financially generous supporter of UIC and has hired nearly 100 of our students for internships and full-time jobs after graduation. He serves on both the UIC Civil and Materials Engineering Advisory Council and on the UIC College of Engineering Advisory Board. He has also taught approximately 40 civil engineering courses at the highest level of quality refusing compensation.

Dr. Christopher Burke is an influential member in the Civil Engineering community, has contributed multi-disciplinary solutions to complex problems of water management at a time when safe water is becoming critical to the world, and he has been a devoted advocate and friend of the College of Engineering at UIC. He has shown us, through his own efforts, how to start and grow a company that makes a difference in people's lives.

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 of Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation.

The President of the University System recommends approval.