Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 26, 2023

**12**

Board Meeting

January 26, 2023

# AWARD HONORARY DEGREE, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Award Honorary Degree

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The University of Illinois Springfield Senate has recommended that an honorary degree be conferred on the following person at Commencement exercises on May 13, 2023. The Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois System recommends approval of this nomination.

**Raymond Schroeder–**the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

Raymond Schroeder began his academic career in 1971 as a radio news reporter and instructor in the College of Communications at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). In 1977, he became an Assistant Professor of Communication at Sangamon State University (SSU). He rose to the rank of Professor, and in 1984 founded and directed the Television Office at SSU. He assisted UIUC to improve new approaches in distance learning through the Illinois Online Network, and he also assisted the University of Illinois Vice President for Academic Affairs in developing and launching plans for online learning at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS).

In the 1990s, UIS Professor Schroeder and other educators within the University of Illinois helped students having difficulty getting to college campuses gain greater access to completing degree requirements via online learning. Due to his untiring efforts, online learning has been a distinguished feature of the educational experiences for the majority of UIS students for more than three decades.

In 1997, he founded the UIS Office of Technology-Enhanced Learning (OTEL), which evolved into the Center for Online Learning, Research and Service (COLRS) in 2008. In the early 2000s, he began podcasting and considering how to effectively utilize Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to provide students access, grow enrollment, as well as providing educational services to professional associations. His eduMOOC launched in 2011, enrolling more than 2,600 participants from 70 countries. He was named Associate Vice Chancellor for Online Learning in 2013, and he was named Senior Fellow for Online Learning in 2021. He retired from UIS in August 2022.

Professor Schroeder continues serving as a Senior Fellow and Founding Director of the National Council for Online Education at the University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA). He is a frequent writer and blogger on topics related to emerging technologies and the future of higher education, and authors the bi-weekly “Trending Now”column in *Inside Higher Education.* He is also a frequent keynote speaker and national presenter, delivering more than 250 regional, national, and international presentations during his career.

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 of Illinois System recommends approval.