Approved by the Board of Trustees

March 28, 2024

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 Board Meeting

 March 28, 2024

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 the May 11, 2024, Commencement ceremony. The chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois System, recommends approval of this nomination.

Burks Oakley II, professor emeritus, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

the honorary degree award of Doctor of Humane Letters

Burks Oakley II is a professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Following his retirement from UIUC, he also taught courses at UIS. Dr. Oakley is a distinguished teacher and scholar in the field of engineering and has contributed to the field of online learning and to the successful development of excellent nationally acclaimed online learning at UIS. Dr. Oakley is a widely respected pioneer in the field of distance learning and a nationally recognized board member of the Online Learning Consortium.

Dr. Oakley played crucial roles in the development and implementation of online learning at UIS over the course of several decades. He was also instrumental in ensuring excellence and that online content was creative, innovative, and effectively served student needs. Faculty note that he has been an advocate for quality assurance and academic integrity in distance learning. These contributions are what has enabled UIS to become a cornerstone of what makes the university unique and nationally acclaimed, as well as the ability to navigate the obstacles presented during the global pandemic.

The faculty award established in Dr. Oakley’s name, which is to honor a current UIS faculty member for excellence in online learning, has also inspired new generations of educators to put forth their most innovative work in this field.

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.