

AWARD HONORARY DEGREES, CHICAGO

Action: Award Honorary Degrees

Funding: No New Funding Required

The University of Illinois at Chicago Senate has nominated the following persons for conferral of honorary degrees at the Commencement exercises in May 2017.

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois recommends approval of these nominations.

Kevin M. Lynch, Vice President of Technology, Apple, Inc. -- the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering

Kevin M. Lynch is one of the world's preeminent software developers and technology innovators. His work has included leadership roles on some of the most influential software development efforts over the last 25 years at companies including Apple, Adobe Systems, Macromedia, General Magic, and Frame Technology.

As the Vice President of Technology at Apple, Mr. Lynch has focused on the innovative software of the Apple Watch and the company's health software effort of HealthKit and ResearchKit on the iPhone. Before he joined Apple in 2013, he was Chief Technology Officer at Adobe, where he focused the company on mobile, social, and cloud technology. He also led Adobe's transformation from a shrink wrapped software company to the introduction of Creative Cloud. In 1996, he joined Macromedia and led its move to web publishing, including the creation of Dreamweaver, the best known software for authorizing HTML. Mr. Lynch helped enhance multimedia on the Web via Flash, reaching more than 1 billion people and enabling early Web with video, audio, rich interactivity, vector graphics,

and custom fonts. In 2005, Mr. Lynch was involved with Macromedia's \$3.4 billion acquisition by its biggest rival, Adobe.

Starting at an early age, Mr. Lynch taught himself software development with free access to a DEC PDP-11 and help of his math teachers at Lincoln-Way High School. The summer after his high school graduation, he worked with friends to create an early bitmap graphic adventure game for Macintosh called Legacy, which was successfully marketed. In the fall of 1984, Mr. Lynch enrolled in the UIC College of Engineering as a computer science major, where he was also a member of the Honors College. During his freshman year, he began working with artists and engineers in UIC's famed Electronic Visualization Laboratory (EVL). At the EVL, Mr. Lynch helped create one of the first Mac software startups, the first 2D+3D drawing application for the Mac, and innovative desktop publishing software, whose elements are now mainstream in desktop software today.

Carlos Tortolero, Founder and President of the National Museum of Mexican Art --
the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

Carlos Tortolero is the Founder and President of the National Museum of Mexican Art, which is the only Latino museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Mr. Tortolero has maintained a strong advocacy role and relationship with UIC since receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and History and while serving as a member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees from 2009 through 2011.

Mr. Tortolero's commitment to education began in 1975, when he worked as a teacher, counselor, and administrator in Chicago Public Schools. He is the co-author of Mexican Chicago and has written articles for national and international publications. He has also taught as a guest lecturer at UIC, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Northwestern University, and guest faculty member at the Smithsonian Institute's Museum Awards Leadership program.

He has a distinguished record of service to Chicago, serving on prominent boards, and receiving numerous awards. His board memberships include: former President, Museums in the Parks; member, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs Advisory Board; panelist, National Endowment for the Arts; and panelist, United Way of Chicago. He is the recipient of the following awards and honors: Chicago Metro History Fair Teacher of the Year; Bright New City Award by Mayor Harold Washington; Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund Special Cultural Award; Chicago Magazine Chicagoan of the Year; Chicago Tribune Arts Person of

the Year; University of Illinois at Chicago Alumni of the Year; Alumni Achievement Award, University of Illinois; Who's Who in Chicago, Crain's Chicago Business; One of the 100 Most Important Mexicans in the U.S., Poder; Illinois Humanities Council Public Humanities Award; and One of Chicago's 40 Who've Made a Difference, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest.

Sheryl Underwood, Founder and CEO of Pack Rat Productions, Entertainer and Philanthropist -- the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

Sheryl Underwood is a 1987 graduate of the UIC Department of Communication and Theater and served as the student commencement speaker that year. Ms. Underwood is a celebrated entertainer, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and current host of *The Talk*, CBS's Daytime Emmy award nominated talk show. She has also been a prominent voice in public affairs and culture.

Ms. Underwood is the recipient of prestigious BET awards recognizing her talent in comedy. She has appeared in a variety of comedy shows, including *Def Jam*, *Soul Train*, and *Make Me Laugh*. She has also starred in top-rated blockbusters, including *Bulworth*, *I Got the Hook Up*, and *Beauty Shop*. Ms. Underwood has also hosted, produced, and contributed to a variety of prominent TV and radio shows, including *The Tom Joyner Morning Show*, *The Steve Harvey Morning Show*, and in 2011 joined the popular and highly rated *The Talk* on CBS.

Sheryl Underwood served in the military following her graduation. She is a lifetime member of the Zeta Phi Beta sorority. She has served as President of the Omicron Rho Zeta Chapter, as the National Chair of Honorary Members, as the National Executive Board Chair, and as International Grand Basileus. She is a member of the National Council of Negro Women and the NAACP. She also founded the African-American Female Comedian Association. She is the owner and chief executive officer of Pack Rat Productions, and the founder and CEO of the philanthropically oriented Pack Rat Foundation for Education, which raises money to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their students. She has also worked with the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Society, and was the principal force behind the Z-Hope Health Center for high school students in Ghana.

Ms. Underwood has sustained a strong sense of commitment to the UIC community, ever since her college days. On September 9, 2015, she

returned to UIC to speak with individual students and in wider community settings.

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 these recommendations.

The President of the University recommends approval.