Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:
This report addresses the requirement of Part 7 of the approved Board of Trustees Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees to provide reports twice a year.

Scheduled Presenter(s):
Linda L. Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Manuel M, López, Associate Vice Chancellor

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:
Three institutions awarded four honorary degrees.

Background Information:
This report addresses the requirement of Part 7 of the approved Board of Trustees Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees.
INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Chancellor is submitting a report on honorary doctorates awarded in fiscal year 2009.

BACKGROUND

Policy 3.18 was originally adopted in 1996. As a result of a routine five-year review of all board policies, amendments were proposed and the Board of Trustees acted on January 21, 2009.

On second reading, the Board of Trustees amended the initial motion to add

Part 7. Report to the Board. The Chancellor shall provide a report on honorary degrees awarded to the Board in January and July of each year. The report shall include information about the number of degrees awarded, names of recipients, and degree designations.

Pursuant to System Procedure 3.18.1 implementing Policy 3.18 and as part of campus procedure, each candidate was recommended to the respective campus president for consideration of the conferral of an honorary degree as specified in procedure. This report addresses the requirement of Part 7 of the approved Board of Trustees Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees.

REPORT

On July 31, 2009 Senior Vice Chancellor Linda Baer sent a memorandum to college and university presidents requesting information on the honorary degrees awarded at the Spring commencement. Three institutions awarded four honorary degrees. The awards, recipients and accomplishments are outlined below in the college and universities’ own words.

St. Cloud State University

The Office of the President at St. Cloud State University conveyed that on May 10, 2009, St. Cloud State University celebrated two undergraduate commencements. At the morning commencement Terrence R. Pladson, M.D., President and CEO of CentraCare Health System, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. During the afternoon commencement

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1 The Board of Trustees passed the revised policy in January 2009, thus in this first year of its implementation only the Spring commencement was covered.
Mary Jo Copeland, Founder of Sharing and Caring Hands, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

“Dr. Pladson has contributed to this region by providing outstanding leadership to central Minnesota's largest health care provider. In addition, under Dr. Pladson's leadership CentraCare has engaged in a close partnership with St. Cloud State University in the preparation of health care professionals. This partnership has provided invaluable assistance to St. Cloud State University in meeting its educational and service goals.”

“Mary Jo Copeland has a long commitment to helping the inner-city poor and less fortunate in our society. She founded Sharing and Caring Hands, a volunteer organization, that currently works with over 20,000 persons a month. Her work provides an outstanding example of people in the community who can make a difference in the lives of others through volunteering and commitment. Her work interfaces closely with the university's goal of community service.”

Winona State University

Winona State University awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science to alumna Joyce (Graupmann) Black, a native of Worthington, MN at the 2009 Spring Commencement ceremony. This award was only the fourth honorary doctorate degree awarded by the university in its 151-year history.

Dr. Black is a 1978 graduate of Winona State University who has achieved national recognition for her expertise in the area of pressure ulcer research. Dr. Black has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel since 1998, including two terms as president in 2006 and 2007. She serves as a member of the Skin Wound Advisory Team at UNMC as well as president of the UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association. In addition, she served for 24 years as Editor-in-Chief of “Plastic Surgical Nursing,” a publication of the American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses.

Professor Black is author of the textbook “Medical-Surgical Nursing: Clinical Management for Positive Outcomes,” which has become one of the most common medical-surgical texts used in schools and colleges of nursing.

Dr. Black was nominated, by members of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, for her enhancement of “…knowledge of the nursing profession through her research for the practice area, teaching nurses and nursing students, consulting with vendors and other disciplines about pressure ulcer prevention, and her vast writing.”
Riverland Community College awarded an Honorary Doctor of Education to Gauher “Mo” Mohammad, a community leader in Owatonna who was born and raised in Pakistan, because of his national and local work to help people, especially traditionally under-represented students, obtain the education and/or training that will lead to living wage employment.

A business graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato, “Mr. Mohammad has a passion for helping develop skilled workforces for employers; … Locally, he conceived and developed “Doherty Academy,” a partnership between Riverland Training and Development and Doherty Staffing Solutions. Doherty Academy provides career and technical training to the region, … In addition, Mo has galvanized support for the Riverland Foundation from dozens of corporations for scholarships.”

Mr. Mohammad “continues to serve his community as the Vice President of the Minnesota Recruiting and Staffing Association, a member of the Workforce Development Initiative for Owatonna, and a board member for the Riverland Community College Foundation. He is the past chairperson of the Human Rights Commission for the city of Owatonna and is a frequent guest lecturer at Riverland and throughout the region on topics ranging from Industrial Trade to Sociology to Islam.”