

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Academic and Student Affairs

**Date of Meeting:** November 17, 2009

**Agenda Item:** Conferred Honorary Degrees Report, Spring 2009

Proposed  
Policy Change

Approvals  
Required by  
Policy

Other  
Approvals

Monitoring

Information

**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.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
*INFORMATION ITEM***

**Conferred Honorary Degrees Report, Spring 2009**

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2  
3 The Office of the Chancellor is submitting a report on honorary doctorates awarded in fiscal year  
4 2009.

5  
6 **BACKGROUND**

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

10  
11 On second reading, the Board of Trustees amended the initial motion to add

12  
13 *Part 7. Report to the Board. The Chancellor shall provide a report on honorary degrees*  
14 *awarded to the Board in January and July of each year. The report shall include*  
15 *information about the number of degrees awarded, names of recipients, and degree*  
16 *designations.*

17  
18 Pursuant to System Procedure 3.18.1 implementing Policy 3.18 and as part of campus procedure,  
19 each candidate was recommended to the respective campus president for consideration of the  
20 conferral of an honorary degree as specified in procedure. This report addresses the requirement  
21 of Part 7 of the approved Board of Trustees Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees.

22  
23 **REPORT**

24  
25 On July 31, 2009 Senior Vice Chancellor Linda Baer sent a memorandum to college and  
26 university presidents requesting information on the honorary degrees awarded at the Spring  
27 commencement<sup>1</sup>. Three institutions awarded four honorary degrees. The awards, recipients and  
28 accomplishments are outlined below in the college and universities' own words.

29  
30 **St. Cloud State University**

31  
32 The Office of the President at St. Cloud State University conveyed that on May 10, 2009, St.  
33 Cloud State University celebrated two undergraduate commencements. At the morning  
34 commencement Terrence R. Pladson, M.D., President and CEO of CentraCare Health System,  
35 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. During the afternoon commencement

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

1 Mary Jo Copeland, Founder of Sharing and Caring Hands, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate  
2 of Humane Letters.

3  
4 “Dr. Pladson has contributed to this region by providing outstanding leadership to  
5 central Minnesota's largest health care provider. In addition, under Dr. Pladson's  
6 leadership CentraCare has engaged in a close partnership with St. Cloud State  
7 University in the preparation of health care professionals. This partnership has  
8 provided invaluable assistance to St. Cloud State University in meeting its  
9 educational and service goals.”

10  
11 “Mary Jo Copeland has a long commitment to helping the inner-city poor and less  
12 fortunate in our society. She founded Sharing and Caring Hands, a volunteer  
13 organization, that currently works with over 20,000 persons a month. Her work  
14 provides an outstanding example of people in the community who can make a  
15 difference in the lives of others through volunteering and commitment. Her work  
16 interfaces closely with the university's goal of community service.”

### 17 18 **Winona State University**

19  
20 Winona State University awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science to alumna Joyce  
21 (Graupmann) Black, a native of Worthington, MN at the 2009 Spring Commencement  
22 ceremony. This award was only the fourth honorary doctorate degree awarded by the university  
23 in its 151-year history.

24  
25 Dr. Black is a 1978 graduate of Winona State University who has achieved  
26 national recognition for her expertise in the area of pressure ulcer research. Dr.  
27 Black has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Pressure  
28 Ulcer Advisory Panel since 1998, including two terms as president in 2006 and  
29 2007. She serves as a member of the Skin Wound Advisory Team at UNMC as  
30 well as president of the UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association. In  
31 addition, she served for 24 years as Editor-in-Chief of “Plastic Surgical Nursing,”  
32 a publication of the American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses.

33  
34 Professor Black is author of the textbook “Medical-Surgical Nursing: Clinical  
35 Management for Positive Outcomes,” which has become one of the most common  
36 medical-surgical texts used in schools and colleges of nursing.

37  
38 Dr. Black was nominated, by members of the College of Nursing and Health  
39 Sciences, for her enhancement of “...knowledge of the nursing profession through  
40 her research for the practice area, teaching nurses and nursing students, consulting  
41 with vendors and other disciplines about pressure ulcer prevention, and her vast  
42 writing.”

43

1 **Riverland Community College**  
2

3 Riverland Community College awarded an Honorary Doctor of Education to Gauher “Mo”  
4 Mohammad, a community leader in Owatonna who was born and raised in Pakistan, because of  
5 his national and local work to help people, especially traditionally under-represented students,  
6 obtain the education and/or training that will lead to living wage employment.  
7

8 A business graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato, “Mr. Mohammad  
9 has a passion for helping develop skilled workforces for employers; ... Locally,  
10 he conceived and developed “Doherty Academy,” a partnership between  
11 Riverland Training and Development and Doherty Staffing Solutions. Doherty  
12 Academy provides career and technical training to the region, ... In addition, Mo  
13 has galvanized support for the Riverland Foundation from dozens of corporations  
14 for scholarships.”  
15

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