

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Academic and Student Affairs **Date of Meeting:** September 14, 2010

Agenda Item: 2009-2010 Honorary Degrees Report

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):

Scott Olson, Interim Vice Chancellor
Manuel López, Associate Vice Chancellor

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

Two institutions awarded two 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**

BOARD INFORMATION

2009–2010 Honorary Degrees Report

1 **INTRODUCTION**

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3 The Office of the Chancellor is submitting a report on honorary doctorates awarded in fiscal year
4 2010.

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 the policy on January
10 21, 2009.

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

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

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

23
24 **REPORT**

25
26 On July 29, 2010 Interim Vice Chancellor Scott Olson sent a memorandum to college and
27 university presidents requesting information on the honorary degrees awarded at all
28 commencements in academic year 2009-2010. Two institutions awarded two honorary degrees.
29 The awards, recipients and accomplishments are outlined below in the college and universities'
30 own words.

31
32 **St. Cloud State University**

33
34 The Office of the President at St. Cloud State University conveyed that following the
35 recommendation of faculty and staff members on the honorary doctorate committee, chaired by
36 Graduate Dean Dennis Nunes, St. Cloud State University presented an honorary Doctorate of
37 Business Administration to Gordon Viere (class of 1975), CEO of LarsonAllen, one of
38 America's 20 largest accounting and consulting firms, in recognition of achievement and

1 outstanding success in his professional and personal life. The conferral of the honorary degree
2 was at the spring semester commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 8, 2010.
3

4 **Winona State University**
5

6 Winona State University awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Shigeo
7 Sasamori at the 2009 Fall Commencement ceremony on December 11, 2009. This award was
8 only the fifth honorary doctorate degree awarded by the university in its 152-year history.
9

10 In 2008 Winona State University hosted the Hiroshima Peace Exhibition featuring Ms. Sasamori,
11 a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing. She described the horrors and brutality of war and shared
12 her commitment to promoting worldwide peace and awareness, a world without war. Ms.
13 Sasamori was an inspiration and had a message for the entire university and greater community.
14 It was seen as appropriate to recognize Ms. Sasamori for her service to the world and her
15 commitment to protecting future generations.
16

17 Winona State University campus constituencies reviewed the nomination and support letters and
18 Ms. Sasamori's resume and supported her candidacy. President Ramaley provided a request and
19 supporting materials to the Chancellor in advance of the award.
20
21