REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Jerre L. Stead at Spring 2011 Commencement.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Mr. Stead for his exceptional contributions to business and technology, support of medical research and patient care, and the advancement of educational opportunities at the University.

Details on Mr. Stead’s Accomplishments:

- Mr. Stead, a Maquoketa native, graduated from the University of Iowa in 1965 with a Bachelor of Business Studies degree. He is also a graduate of the Harvard University Advanced Management Program in Switzerland.

- After graduation from the University of Iowa, Mr. Stead began his career at Honeywell in Minneapolis where he spent 21 years, moving into increasingly responsible positions.

- In 1987, he was named president and chief operating officer of Square D, a leading manufacturer of electrical distribution and factory automation products and, in 1988, he was promoted to chairman, president, and chief executive officer.

- In 1992, he was named chief executive officer of AT&T Global Business Communications Systems where he was promoted to executive vice president of AT&T and chairman and chief executive officer of AT&T Global Information Solutions (NCR Corporation) as well as chairman of NCR in Japan.

- In 1995, he became chairman and chief executive officer of the Legent Corporation where he oversaw the sale of the company for more than $2.2 billion in 1995.

- Mr. Stead joined Ingram Micro as chairman and chief executive officer in 1996, taking the company public that year and growing the company almost four-fold. It was listed as number 41 in the Fortune 500 in 2000.

- He became executive chairman of IHS Inc. in 2000 and chief executive officer in 2006. Under Mr. Stead’s leadership, IHS has quickly grown into a $1 billion-plus business that is the leader in providing information and insight services to businesses around the world. He guided IHS Inc. through a highly successful initial public offering in 2006.

- Mr. Stead has served on 34 corporate boards during his career. He was honored as an Outstanding Director in 2009 by the Outstanding Directors Exchange (ODX). He currently serves on the boards of directors of Brightpoint, Inc. and Mindspeed Technologies, Inc. He is past chairman of the National Electronic Manufacturers Association and the Center of Ethics and Values at the Garrett Evangelical Seminary. He also serves as chair of the Garrett Evangelical Seminary. Mr. Stead has also co-authored several business books.
Mr. Stead is known by his peers, colleagues, and employees as a leader who displays the highest standard of ethics and who infuses the corporate culture with a vision based on the values of teamwork, respect, accountability, integrity, and innovation. He opens each weekly meeting of his leadership team with a values discussion and he believes that people are a company’s only sustainable competitive advantage. Mr. Stead conducts an annual “Vision, Mission, Values” tour to stress continually the importance of operating a business with the highest degree of ethics and with a focus on always putting customers first. His employees describe him as dynamic, active, enthusiastic, imaginative, accessible, and dedicated to individuals’ success.

Mr. Stead has a long-standing commitment to higher education. He has been at the forefront of guiding growing technology firms and recognizing the potential impact of technology in people’s lives. Through his vision, encouragement, and support, the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business established the Stead Technology Services Group (STSG), a highly respected technology unit on campus. Its staff has won University of Iowa workplace awards, designed award-winning websites, and continuously sought the best ways to use technology to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom and provide students with the technical skills they need for success in the workplace.

Mr. Stead is a guest lecturer in Tippie’s Executive MBA Program, focusing on values-based leadership, ethics, and policy and strategy. He is one of the most popular visiting executives in the program.

Mr. Stead has also been an important leader and contributor to Coe College, providing generous philanthropic gifts and serving as a member of its Board of Trustees. The college benefits from an endowed chair in Business in his name. The Department of Business Administration and Economics is named for him and his family. He provided the lead gift for the 2006 renovation of the college’s oldest and largest academic building, Stuart Hall.

Mr. Stead is committed to supporting medical research and practice. He chairs the Alzheimer’s Research Institute and serves on the Salk Institute Board of Directors. In 2007, he was an informal yet invaluable consultant in helping to shape a new organizational structure for the University of Iowa Health Care and its commitment to achieving a more patient-centered focus. More recently, he has been involved in facilitating the exploration of opportunities for potential public-private partnerships in biomedical research at the national level.

Mr. Stead and his wife, Mary Joy, have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the University of Iowa Health Care’s “Iowa First” development campaign whose goal is to raise $500 million to support its academic and clinical missions. Mr. Stead understands the value of providing excellent patient care, training tomorrow’s physicians, and conducting groundbreaking medical research.

Mr. Stead is one of the most outstanding alumni of the University. He has continued his association with the University as a board member, major donor, leader of several campaigns, and participant in the University’s teaching mission.