

BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Regents, State of Iowa
FROM: Diana Gonzalez
DATE: April 20, 2005 *ASN*
SUBJ: Request by Iowa State University to Award an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree to Vance D. Coffman

Recommended Action: Approve Iowa State University's request to award an honorary doctor of science degree to Vance D. Coffman at Spring 2006 commencement.

Executive Summary: By awarding an honorary doctor of science degree to Vance D. Coffman at Spring 2006 commencement, Iowa State University would like to recognize Dr. Coffman for outstanding technological achievement in the aerospace industry and outstanding leadership of one of the nation's largest and most successful corporations.

Dr. Coffman's Background Dr. Coffman received his Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering in 1967 from ISU. After joining Lockheed Missiles and Space Company as an entry-level engineer, Dr. Coffman led the development of several major classified space projects. Dr. Coffman was appointed Vice-President of the Space Systems Division in 1985 and President in 1988. Recently retired as CEO, Dr. Coffman remains as Chairman of the Board.

Accomplishments Dr. Coffman's accomplishments are extensive and include the following:

- ☛ Major architect and planning leader for the merger of Martin Marietta and Lockheed.
- ☛ Restored the company's financial strength and achieved a record \$32 billion in sales in 2003.
- ☛ Provided the technical and managerial leadership for major technological achievements, including the Hubble Space Telescope, the military satellite communications system (MILSTAR), and numerous Homeland Security programs.

Honors

Dr. Coffman has been widely recognized for his achievements:

- ☛ Chair of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (2002).
 - ☛ Chairman of the Aerospace Industries Association, the industry's top trade organization (2003).
 - ☛ Member of the National Academy of Engineering.
 - ☛ Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the American Astronomical Society.
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Help for Future Generations

Dr. Coffman has worked extensively to encourage the next generation of students to pursue careers in science and engineering, including serving on the Board of Directors of the United Negro College Fund.

Academic Background

Dr. Coffman received his M.S. in 1969 and Ph.D. in 1974 in aeronautics and astronautics from Stanford University.

Nominations

The Department of Aerospace Engineering nominated Dr. Coffman for the honorary degree. The nomination is supported by the Faculty Senate Honorary Degrees Committee and the Executive Board, the Office of the Provost, and President Gregory L. Geoffroy.

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