

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary doctor of humane letters degree to Marvin A. Pomerantz at Fall 2007 Commencement.

**Executive Summary:** The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Mr. Pomerantz for his exceptional contributions to business and his service to the community, state, and nation. Mr. Pomerantz's business successes and his commitment to improving people's lives through philanthropy set a high standard and outstanding example for all Iowans.

**Details on Mr. Pomerantz's Accomplishments:**

- ◆ Mr. Pomerantz received a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce from the University of Iowa in 1952, graduating in less than four years.
- ◆ In 1961, Mr. Pomerantz founded the Great Plains Bag Corporation and served as its president and general manager until 1976. A sister company, Mid-America Realty, was formed to develop industrial buildings and office parks; it eventually evolved into Mid-America Group, a holding company for business interests, where he is currently chairman and CEO.
- ◆ In the 1980s, he served as president of the Diversified Group of International Harvester; from 1981 to 1982 he served as executive vice-president of International Harvester.
- ◆ In 1986, Mr. Pomerantz formed Gaylord Container Corporation which became one of the top 10 containerboard producers in the country; in 2002, it was acquired by Temple-Inland.
- ◆ His entrepreneurial vision has led to significant business advances and successes that have positively affected the Iowa economy. He lends his expertise and support to a number of projects and organizations, including the Des Moines Theater Project, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines Metropolitan Opera, United Negro College Fund, Iowa Lutheran Hospital, and the Des Moines Jewish Welfare Fund.
- ◆ He has worked tirelessly to support education in Iowa at all levels, serving as president of the Board of Regents (1987-1993; 1995-1996), as head of Iowa's Commission on Educational Excellence for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and as a member of the Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce (created by the Iowa Legislature).
- ◆ He has served the University of Iowa in several capacities, including the Foundation Board of Directors (1986-2007) and as co-chair of the "Good, Better, Best" capital campaign. His support has extended to Hancher Auditorium, University of Iowa Museum of Art, University of Iowa athletics, Tippie College of Business, College of Public Health, and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.
- ◆ Mr. Pomerantz has received a number of awards, including the 1980 National Governor's Association Award for Distinguished Service; 1986 Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the National Society of Fundraising Executives; the 1990 Distinguished Iowa Citizen Award from the Mid-Iowa Council of Boy Scouts of America; the 1991 People of Vision Award from the Iowa Society to Prevent Blindness; the 1998 Hancher-Finkbine Alumni Medallion from the University of Iowa; the 2001 Horatio Alger Award; and the 2002 Young President's Legacy Award.