

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Science degree to James E. Hansen at Spring 2014 Commencement.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Dr. Hansen for his pioneering work in the field of planetary climate science and his dedication to effecting positive change through research, communication, and advocacy.

Details on Dr. Hansen's Accomplishments:

- ◇ A native of Denison, Iowa, Dr. Hansen earned a Bachelor of Arts with highest distinction in physics and mathematics in 1963, a Master of Science in astronomy in 1965, and a Ph.D. in physics in 1967 all from the University of Iowa.
- ◇ While studying in the space science program directed by world renowned space scientist James Van Allen, Dr. Hansen became interested in the study of planetary atmospheres, studying in particular the atmosphere of the planet Venus and ultimately contributing immensely to that body of knowledge. Eventually his interest in planetary atmospheres turned his attention to the Earth's atmosphere.
- ◇ He participated in the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) graduate traineeship from 1962 to 1966 and, at the same time, between 1965 and 1966, he was a visiting student at the Institute of Astrophysics at the University of Kyoto and in the Department of Astronomy at the University of Tokyo.
- ◇ In 1967, Dr. Hansen began work at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) and became a driving force behind the Institute's evolution into a leading center for atmospheric modeling. He directed the GISS from 1981 until his retirement in April 2013.
- ◇ At GISS, Dr. Hansen led the development of pioneering global climate models and used them to interpret the growing amount of data from NASA's new satellites. Because of the ability of satellites to monitor the entire globe, he stated that they may be one of the most effective ways to monitor and study global change.
- ◇ In 1981, his analysis of surface air temperature at meteorological stations found a warming of 0.5° to 0.7° C during the past century. Dr. Hansen has also contributed toward the understanding of black carbon on regional climates.
- ◇ In addition to his scholarly articles, Dr. Hansen has published many articles and opinion pieces as well as a book, *Storms of My Grandchildren*.
- ◇ Dr. Hansen was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1996 for his "development of pioneering radiative transfer models and studies of planetary atmospheres; development of simplified and three-dimensional global climate models; explication of climate forcing mechanisms; analysis of current climate trends from observational data; and projections of anthropogenic impact on the global climate system."

- ◇ Dr. Hansen has received many other honors and awards for his outstanding achievements in science and technology and his extraordinary cultural and social impact. In 2001, he received the 7th Annual Heinz Award in the Environment for his research on global warming; the AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility in 2007; the PNC Bank Commonwealth Award of Distinguished Service in 2008; the Carl-Gustaf Rossby Research Model in 2009; the Sophie Prize (an international award for raising awareness about sustainable development) in 2010; and the Ridenhour Courage Prize (which recognizes acts of truth-telling that protect the public interest, promote social justice, or illuminate a more just vision of society) in 2013.
- ◇ Dr. Hansen was named one of *Time Magazine's* 100 Most Influential People in 2006 and one of *Foreign Policy's* Top 100 Global Thinkers in 2012.
- ◇ The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Dr. Hansen's extraordinary accomplishments with an honorary degree.