

Contact: Rachel Boon

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

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Mr. John R. Dinger at the Spring 2022 commencement.

Details of Mr. Dinger's Accomplishments: The University of Northern Iowa wishes to recognize the Honorable John R. Dinger ('74) for his contributions to the United States, including as an ambassador of the U.S. Department of State.

Ambassador Dinger is from northeast Iowa, born in Charles City in 1952, and grew up in Riceville. He attended UNI from 1970-1974, majoring in political science. Following graduation, Mr. Dinger entered the Foreign Service upon the recommendation of department chair, Robert Ross.

Below are some highlights of Mr. Dinger's career and outstanding contributions and service to the United States.

- Early career stations included appointments in consular offices in the United Kingdom, Brazil, South Africa and Japan.
- 1997-1998, Director of the Office of Press Relations, in the Bureau of Public Affairs, overseeing all major press events from the Department of State.
- 2000-2003, Ambassador to Mongolia, appointed by President Clinton.
- 2003-2005, Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism in the State Department
- 2005-2006, Senior Advisor in the Office of the Undersecretary for Political Affairs.
- 2006-2012, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Intelligence and Research, providing expert global analysis on policy issues for Secretaries Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton
 - Created the State Department's first Office of Cyber Affairs and chaired the Cyber Policy Group
- 2013-2017, Senior Inspector in the State Department's Office of the Inspector General

The Honorary Degree Committee has reviewed the nomination and unanimously concurs with the recommendation. The request came forward in early 2020 but review was delayed during COVID uncertainties with commencements.