

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REQUEST TO AWARD HONORARY DEGREES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

PART I – REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE TO JOHN PAPPAJOHN

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to John Pappajohn at Spring 2010 Commencement.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Mr. Pappajohn for his exceptional contributions to humanitarian outreach and the advancement of research and educational opportunities at the University.

Details on Mr. Pappajohn's Accomplishments:

- ◇ Mr. Pappajohn emigrated from Greece at the age of 9 months and grew up in Mason City, Iowa. He became head of the household at age 16 after his father died. He was responsible for two younger brothers and his mother who spoke no English. He matured quickly and developed the traits that made him successful in business. He was quoted as saying, "I believe a little adversity is a great stimulus to success."
- ◇ He received a degree in business from the University of Iowa in 1952, alternating working and attending school with his brothers.
- ◇ After graduation, Mr. Pappajohn founded the Guardsman Life Insurance Company and subsequently organized and became chairman of the board of Guardsman Insurance Investors, a public insurance holding company.
- ◇ He sold Guardsman in 1969 to organize Equity Dynamics, Inc. and devote his attention to venture capital investments. Mr. Pappajohn's vision and determination to form his own equity capital firm in an emerging financial investment industry was groundbreaking.
- ◇ Keeping civic and educational needs at the forefront of his business endeavors, Mr. Pappajohn spearheaded the foundational efforts that resulted in the nationally acclaimed entrepreneurship centers at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, University of Northern Iowa, Drake University, and North Iowa Area Community College. These innovative centers have enabled thousands of young Iowans to realize their dreams of starting their own businesses. These enterprises are rapidly become a part of the core of Iowa's private sector economy.
- ◇ Throughout his life, Mr. Pappajohn has embodied the role of social entrepreneur, helping people around the world to help themselves. To this day, he continues to help innovative entrepreneurs to pursue creative solutions to the most pressing social problems in the fields of medicine, economic development, human rights, and environmental sustainability.

- ◇ Through his board involvements and gifts for buildings, outreach, and research programs, he has had a significant impact on those he has touched and inspired others to support disciplines and programs that have launched University graduates into careers of service in Iowa and around the world.
- ◇ Mr. Pappajohn's commitment to Iowa and his vision for improving the quality of life for all Iowans led him to support the creation of the new Sculpture Park in Des Moines. He donated 24 works of modern and contemporary sculpture, which are now exhibited in a specially designed and engaging park setting in downtown Des Moines.
- ◇ During presentations to students, Mr. Pappajohn emphasizes the importance of ethics and personal responsibility as a leader and the critical role that new firms play in economic development and in introducing new innovations that improve people's lives. He also stresses the importance of giving back to the community and providing opportunities for less fortunate individuals to pursue their dreams.
- ◇ Mr. Pappajohn has been the recipient of many awards, including the Horatio Alger Award in 1995, Iowa Business Hall of Fame in 1996, the Beta Gamma Sigma Medallion for Entrepreneur of the Year in 1997, Hancher-Finkbine Alumni Medallion in 2004, Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship in 2006, U.S. Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship John E. Hughes Award for Entrepreneurial Advocacy in 2009, and the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.
- ◇ Mr. Pappajohn's influence on the University of Iowa is profound. His commitment to the College of Business, the Carver College of Medicine, the Entrepreneurial Center, and the discovery of new knowledge through the Iowa Institute for Biomedical Discovery has fueled the most important start-ups – the minds and hearts of students.

PART II – REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE TO ARTHUR NEU

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Arthur Neu at Spring 2010 Commencement.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Mr. Neu for his exceptional contributions to public service and the advancement of educational opportunities at the University.

Details on Mr. Neu's Accomplishments:

- ◇ Mr. Neu's public service is extensive. In 1967, he was elected to the Iowa State Senate from Carroll. From 1973 to 1978, he served as Lieutenant Governor of Iowa. From 1979 to 1985, he served as a member of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa. In all of these positions, he created a level of bi-partisan support for higher education that makes Iowa unique.
- ◇ In Spring 1970, as chair of the higher education committee of the State Senate, he was steadfast in his effective support for public higher education despite strong external criticism directed at the University of Iowa over issues related to the Vietnam War.
- ◇ Mr. Neu's bi-partisan support for higher education was also critical during the agricultural depression of the 1980s when Iowa was one of only two states in the country to lose population. He, together with other prominent Iowans, demonstrated that it is possible to maintain public support for research universities in the midst of severe economic hardship.
- ◇ Mr. Neu has also been a strong supporter of the humanities, assisting Humanities Iowa, a University of Iowa related organization and the state affiliate to the National Endowment for the Humanities, to promote public appreciation for Iowa's history and heritage. He understands the importance of community engagement, and education's public role across the state, particularly in rural and smaller communities. His exemplary record of service in support of the University deserves recognition.
- ◇ In 2005, the Board of Regents appointed Mr. Neu as the founding chair of the Board of Trustees of Iowa Public Radio, which was created by the Board of Regents to ensure that the public interests of the state are met.