

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO AWARD HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREES
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Dwight Ink and an honorary Doctor of Science to Jon Kinzenbaw at Spring 2018 commencement, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Theaster Gates at Fall 2018 commencement.

Executive Summary: Mr. Ink, Mr. Kinzenbaw and Mr. Gates have each led distinguished careers in their respective fields. Iowa State University wishes to honor them for their achievements and contributions through the awarding of honorary doctorates.

Details on Mr. Ink's Accomplishments: Iowa State University wishes to present an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Mr. Dwight Ink, an accomplished civil servant, trusted advisor to seven U.S. presidents, and native Iowan at Spring 2018 Commencement. The University wishes to recognize Mr. Ink for his extraordinary and outstanding contributions, particularly in the fields of government and governing.

Mr. Ink grew up in a poverty stricken rural family during the Great Depression. In 1947, he became ISU's first graduate with a degree in government and, after four years of military service, began serving in high-level leadership roles in a number of federal agencies under several administrations, most notably the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, from 1951-1969. He also served on government wide groups, including as executive director of the Federal Reconstruction and Development Planning Committee for Alaska, in the aftermath of a 1964 earthquake that leveled portions of the state. He chaired the White House Task Force on Education; the Personnel Management Project that reconstituted the federal civil service in 1977; and was a member of President Ronald Reagan's administration transition team in 1980-81.

Mr. Ink possessed an unusual combination of management savvy, determination, and a willingness to take risks, and successfully attacked government waste and corruption on behalf of seven presidents, from Dwight Eisenhower to Ronald Reagan. Known as "Mr. Implementation," he was profiled in the book, *If We Can Put a Man on the Moon ... : Getting Big Things Done in Government*, where the authors noted, "The political class respected the skills Dwight Ink brought to the table...He took the responsibility of making government work seriously... If our government is to reclaim a reputation for competency, we will need more Dwight Inks."

Mr. Ink was active in a number of professional organizations, including the American Consortium for International Public Administration, American Public Works Association, American Society of Public Administration, International Institute for Administrative Science, National Civil Service League, National Civil Service League, and Institute for Public Administration, in which he served as president from 1989-1993. He has received awards from numerous institutions, including the National Service League, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and General Services Administration, and Brigham Young University.

Mr. Ink's accomplishments and his 70-year connection with Iowa State are chronicled in a number of sources, and his public papers are archived by the Special Collections Department in the university's Parks Library.

Faculty members from Iowa State's Department of Political Science nominated Mr. Ink for the honorary degree. This nomination is supported by Iowa State's Faculty Senate Honorary Degree Committee and Executive Board; Senior Vice President and Provost Jonathan Wickert; and President Wendy Wintersteen, who is pleased to present it to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.

Details on Mr. Kinzenbaw's Accomplishments: Iowa State University wishes to present an Honorary Doctor of Science degree to Mr. Jon Kinzenbaw, an accomplished Iowa inventor, manufacturer and entrepreneur.

Mr. Kinzenbaw, CEO and Chairman of Kinze Manufacturing, was born in 1944 near Victor in east-central Iowa to a frugal, hard-working farm family. In 1965, with \$5 in his pocket and a \$3,655 bank loan, he bought some tools and made the down payment on a 1,400-square foot building in Ladora, where he opened Kinze welding. Over the next 50 years, this brilliant farmer-inventor-mechanic-welder-fabricator-business leader has brought innovative technologies and mechanization to production agriculture, all while continuing to work as a farmer himself.

Mr. Kinzenbaw's success as a "disruptive innovator" is evidenced by the success of Kinze Manufacturing, with its 480-employee headquarters in Williamsburg, and a second manufacturing facility in Lithuania; by his 37 patents, including two that were issued in 2017; and by his passion for farmers and their success. In 1975, for example, as corn and soybean planters became larger, they became too wide to pull on public roads. The common solution at the time was to unhook the planter from the tractor, load it lengthwise onto a trailer, pull the trailer to the next field, and then reattach the planter to the tractor to resume planting. Kinzenbaw saw the need for a better system and invented the world's first folding planter, which allowed farmers to move from one site to another and resume planting without ever leaving their tractors.

Mr. Kinzenbaw has received numerous awards over the years for his business, innovation, and outreach activities, including the George Washington Carver Distinguished Service Award from Iowa State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; the 2009 No-Till Product of the Year Award; Iowa Engineering Society Governor's New Product Award; and Iowa Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. He is also a member of the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame, the Iowa Inventors Hall of Fame, and Association of Equipment Manufacturers Hall of Fame.

Mr. Kinzenbaw's 52-year career exhibits extraordinary achievement by bringing a continuous stream of successful innovations to agricultural mechanization through Kinze Manufacturing. His achievements, work ethic, and adherence to core values are models to be emulated by all Iowa State students.

Faculty members from Iowa State's Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering nominated Mr. Kinzenbaw for the honorary degree. This nomination is supported by Iowa State's Faculty Senate Honorary Degree Committee and Executive Board; Senior Vice President and Provost Jonathan Wickert; and President Wendy Wintersteen, who is pleased to present it to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.

Details on Mr. Gates' Accomplishments: Iowa State University wishes to present an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Mr. Theaster Gates, a distinguished alumnus, acclaimed artist, and innovator in urban revitalization and planning.

Mr. Gates, Professor of Visual Arts at the University of Chicago, is a visual and performance artist whose creations and impact exist at the intersection of social entrepreneurship, philanthropy, and innovation. He holds two degrees from Iowa State: a bachelor's of science in urban planning and ceramics; and a master's of science in urban planning, ceramics, and religious studies.

In addition to his faculty role, Mr. Gates also directs the University of Chicago's Arts and Public Life Initiative, and is executive director and founder of the Rebuild Foundation, created in 2009 to manage redevelopment and affordable space initiatives in the under-resourced Greater Grand Crossing neighborhood of Chicago.

In 2015, Mr. Gates opened a nonprofit arts center, the Stony Island Arts Bank, in his south Chicago neighborhood. As Michael Darling, chief curator of Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, noted, "Theaster has created a practice that is really like no other in the world ... that links his fine art practice, his urban planning concerns, and the financial viability of the neighborhood in which he lives is nothing short of revolutionary. Very few artists with interests in the social realm have found a way to be as directly effective as he has ..."

Mr. Gates' extraordinary achievements as an innovator in the visual arts have landed him among the top living artists in the world. He has had 30 solo exhibitions in the past decade, participated in more than 50 group shows, and had received numerous honors and awards for his work, including the inaugural Kennedy Center Award for the Human Spirit (2016); the Kurt Schwitters Prize from Sprengel Museum in Hannover, Germany (2017); the Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award for Social Progress (2015); and induction into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2016). He also received an honorary doctorate of fine arts from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2015.

Faculty members from Iowa State's Department of Art and Visual Culture nominated Mr. Gates for the honorary degree. This nomination is supported by Iowa State's Faculty Senate Honorary Degree Committee and Executive Board; Senior Vice President and Provost Jonathan Wickert; and President Wendy Wintersteen, who is pleased to present it to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.