

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREE
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Science to Dr. Robert Easter at Spring 2019 commencement.

Summary of Dr. Easter's Accomplishments: Dr. Easter led distinguished career as a scholar, educator and leader in advancing the interests of higher education, including agricultural education and research at a national and international level.. Iowa State University wishes to honor him for his achievements and contributions through the awarding of an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

After arriving at the University of Illinois in 1973 as a graduate student in animal science, Dr. Easter joined the faculty in 1976, marking the start of a distinguished 40 year career at the institution. He went on to serve as a department head, dean, interim provost, interim vice chancellor for research, interim chancellor, and ultimately, as the 19th president of the University of Illinois from 2012-2015. He now holds the titles of Professor of Animal Science Emeritus and President Emeritus.

Dr. Easter is an internationally renowned expert in pig nutrition, transforming nutritional management standards and practices across the swine industry. His research has dramatically enhanced the economic viability and sustainability of swine production in the U.S. and world-wide. He has worked closely with Iowa State University leaders on important national efforts to elevate publicly funded food, agricultural and natural resources research as a national priority.

Dr. Easter has lectured in 30 countries, and has co-written a textbook on swine management. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science and an honorary member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Easter to the Board on International Food and Agricultural Development in 2007 and then promoted him to Chair in 2008. He also served on the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in 2002 and 2008, a committee assigned to develop recommendations for the U.S. Farm Bill.

In addition to his scholarly achievements, Dr. Easter has made a profound impact in higher education by enhancing the infrastructure needed to support outstanding faculty careers in research, teaching, and outreach, and thereby fostering a new generation of academic and industry leaders. He also served for 20 years in the U.S. Army as a reserve officer. Dr. Easter is lauded as someone who has continually placed the needs of his institution, state, and country ahead of his own, and in doing so, exemplifies the land-grant mission and represents the ideals of Iowa State University.

Faculty members from Iowa State's Department of Animal Science nominated Dr. Easter 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.