

Contact: Rachel Boon

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

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Dr. Subra Suresh, to be conferred at a future commencement ceremony.

Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Beth Ford, to be conferred at a future commencement ceremony.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University wishes to present an Honorary Doctor of Science degree to Dr. Subra Suresh, President of Singapore's Nanyang Technological University. Iowa State wishes to recognize Dr. Suresh, a 1979 Iowa State University alumnus, for his many outstanding contributions as a distinguished engineer, scientist, entrepreneur and leader in higher education.

Faculty members in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Iowa State University nominated Dr. Suresh for the honorary degree. His 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.

Iowa State University also wishes to present an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Beth Ford, President and Chief Executive Officer of Land O'Lakes, Inc. Iowa State wishes to recognize Ms. Ford, a 1986 Iowa State University alumna, for her many outstanding contributions as a pioneering leader in business and agriculture, and passionate advocate for farmers and rural communities.

Faculty members in the Department of Management at Iowa State University nominated Beth Ford for the honorary degree. Her 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.

Details of Dr. Suresh's Accomplishments: In January 2018, Dr. Suresh began his tenure as president of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), where he is also the inaugural holder of the position, Distinguished University Professor, the highest honor given to a faculty member at NTU. As president, Dr. Suresh has launched the "Smart Campus" initiative to harness the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, knowledge discovery, and sustainability. The initiative includes plans to build "Asia's largest wooden building" to house the Nanyang Business School. He also announced a five-year effort to recruit the best and brightest academic talent by supporting Ph.D. scholarships, undergraduate internships and new faculty positions.

From 2013-2017, Dr. Suresh served as president of Carnegie Mellon University, where he worked to increase the number of women recruited to science, technology and mathematics disciplines and advocated for greater diversity in higher education. He assembled the most diverse senior leadership team in university history and led an inclusive process to develop a strategic plan that emphasized the campus experience and student health and wellness. He also secured several historic gifts to support an unprecedented campus infrastructure development effort.

In 2010, Dr. Suresh was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as director of the National Science Foundation, and was subsequently unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. During his tenure, Dr. Suresh established the NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) program aimed at translating research and discoveries into industrial practice, lauded by the Harvard Business Review for its success to use "lean startup techniques to turn scientists into entrepreneurs."

As a scientist, Dr. Suresh researches the properties of engineered and biological matters, and their connections to human diseases. He has authored 300 research articles and three books, and filed 25 patent applications. He holds the distinction of being the only university president elected to all three National Academies – the Institute of Medicine (2013), the National Academy of Science (2012), and the National Academy of Engineering (2002). He is also one of only 16 Americans with membership in all three academies.

Dr. Suresh's other notable recognitions include membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Inventors. He is an elected member of 15 science and/or engineering academies based in the U.S., China, France, India, Sweden, Germany, Italy and Spain. He has 18 honorary doctorates from universities around the world.

Dr. Suresh was born in Mumbai, India, and graduated from high school at the age of 15. After receiving his undergraduate degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, he attended Iowa State University where he earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering. Dr. Suresh went on to earn a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and conduct postdoctoral research at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Details of Ms. Ford's Accomplishments: Ms. Ford was appointed President and CEO of Land O'Lakes, Inc. in August 2018, becoming the first woman to hold the company's highest position and the first openly gay woman to lead a Fortune 500 company. Land O'Lakes is one of the nation's largest food and agricultural cooperatives and #216 on the Fortune 500.

Ms. Ford became President and CEO following a series of successful executive roles within Land O'Lakes. In December 2017, she was named Chief Operating Officer of Land O'Lakes Businesses, overseeing Land O'Lakes' WinField United, Purina Animal Nutrition and Dairy Foods business units. Prior to that, Ms. Ford was head of Land O'Lakes' Dairy Foods and Purina Animal Nutrition businesses, where she led record performance and growth, leveraging innovation through research and development to strengthen both brands. She also was instrumental in the acquisition of Vermont Creamery in early 2017.

Ms. Ford's 33-year career spans six industries at seven companies. Prior to joining Land O'Lakes in 2011, she excelled in executive operations management and supply chain roles at International Flavors and Fragrances, Hachette Book Group, Scholastic Corporation, Pepsi Bottling Group, Perseco and Mobil Oil.

Recognized by Fortune as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders and Most Powerful Women, Ms. Ford is a passionate advocate for farmers and rural communities, working to drive public policy and investment on critical issues facing rural Americans, like access to health care, quality education and broadband internet. Ms. Ford is a member of the Board of Directors for several industry organizations including the National Milk Producers Federation, Grocery Manufacturers Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, and Consumer Goods Forum. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the publicly tradedCCAR Inc., and non-profit organizations, United Way of Minneapolis, American Heart Association and Minnesota Business Partnership.

A Sioux City, Iowa, native, Ms. Ford holds an MBA from Columbia University Business School and a bachelor's degree in business management from Iowa State University. She remains actively engaged with her alma maters, sitting on the Deming Center Board of Advisors for Columbia Business School and the Dean's Advisory Council for the Ivy College of Business at Iowa State.