

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary doctor of science degree to Jonathan Rich at Spring 2010 Commencement.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University wishes to recognize Dr. Rich for his exceptional scientific and leadership contributions to the chemical industry and for his ongoing advocacy for public and private investment in research.

Background:

- ◇ Dr. Rich received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Iowa State University and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin where he studied under noted chemist Robert C. West.
- ◇ He began his career as a research chemist with GE Corporate Research and Development in 1982 and, in 1996, he was named manager of operational excellence for GE Silicones. When GE Silicones merged with Bayer Silicones in 1998, he became technical director of the German-based company, leading a group of 145 scientists.
- ◇ In 2000, he joined Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company as director of chemical research and development. In 2001, he was named president of Goodyear Chemical, the second-largest producer of synthetic rubber in the world; in 2002, he was named president of Goodyear's North American Tire division. At Goodyear, Dr. Rich introduced Six Sigma and is credited with leading the company's expansion into new high-growth markets.
- ◇ In 2006, when Momentive Performance Materials (MPM) was acquired from GE, Dr. Rich was appointed its chief executive officer. MPM has 4,000 employees and more than \$2.6 billion in annual sales and is the world's second-largest manufacturer of silicones and silicone derivatives. It is a global leader of products derived from quartz and specialty ceramics. Dr. Rich led the construction of MPM's new research facilities in New York, China, and India; the New York facility was established with state investment because of its economic development impact.
- ◇ Dr. Rich has led several technological advancements, including the development of the PADS system of producing silicone co-polymers at GE. This created a new field for GE and resulted in 26 patents, and numerous refereed journal articles and book chapters.
- ◇ Dr. Rich is a member of the American Chemical Society and is on the board of directors of the Rubber Manufacturers Association. He also serves on ISU's Institute for Physical Research and Technology Industrial Advisory Board.
- ◇ His nomination stated: "Dr. Rich has distinguished himself not only as a scholar, but in the corporate world. It is a badge of honor for an individual in the corporate world, especially in today's economic climate, to have the intellectual insight and foresight to stress research and development."