

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Benjamin J. Allen at Fall 2011 Commencement.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University wishes to recognize Dr. Allen for his outstanding educational leadership in Iowa and for his many scholarly contributions to the field of transportation and logistics.

Details on Dr. Allen's Accomplishments:

- ◇ Dr. Allen received a Bachelor of Science degree in business economics from Indiana University in Bloomington and Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- ◇ He began his academic career as a member of the U.S. Army, teaching economics at Highland Community College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He served on the faculty at the University of Washington from 1974 to 1979 and was a Brookings Economic Policy Fellow in the Office of Transportation Regulatory Policy in the U.S. Department of Transportation for one year while on leave from the University of Washington. He joined the Iowa State University faculty in 1982 and was promoted to professor and chair of the Department of Transportation and Logistics in 1984. He was the Visiting McKinley Professor of Economics and Public Utilities at the University of Illinois in 1986-87 and held the Oren Harris Chair in Transportation at the University of Arkansas during the 1990-91 academic year.
- ◇ In 1988, Dr. Allen and a colleague from the University of Iowa established the Midwest Transportation Center at ISU with a \$4 million grant from the federal government; Dr. Allen directed that center for two years. He was appointed interim dean of the College of Business in 1994 and dean in 1995 where he served until 2001. He served as interim Vice President for External Affairs in 2001-02 and as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost from 2002 to 2006 when he was appointed the 9th president of the University of Northern Iowa.
- ◇ In addition to having an exceptional career in academic administration, Dr. Allen is a nationally recognized researcher and educator in transportation and logistics, with particular expertise in regulator reform, deregulation and public transportation policy. He has an extensive publication record in top peer-reviewed journals in his discipline as well as in broader national economics publications. One of the papers he co-authored received the National Defense Transportation Association's Foundation Memorial Award for Literary Merit. He has received several research, teaching, and advising awards and fellowships, and, in 1988, he was named the first Distinguished Professor in Business at ISU.
- ◇ In 2007, Dr. Allen was appointed by two state college associations (American Association of State Colleges and Universities and National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges) to the Presidential Advisory Committee for the National Commission of University Accountability. In June 2010, he received a Congressional appointment to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI). This committee is required by law to advise the Secretary of Education with respect to establishment and enforcement of the standards of accrediting agencies and associations.

- ◆ In 1999, Dr. Allen was appointed chairperson of the committee for the study of Freight Capacity for the Next Century.
- ◆ Dr. Allen co-chairs the Iowa Business Council's Education Excellence in Iowa Roundtable, a non-partisan forum of business and education leaders focused on improving pre-K-16 academic achievement and establishing career development opportunities. He previously co-chaired the Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce, a non-profit educational foundation helping Iowa learners prepare for the global marketplace.
- ◆ ISU¹ described Dr. Allen in the following way: "Dr. Allen's academic career is one of great distinction. He is an important, nationally known and respected figure in the field of transportation and logistics. The volume and quality of output he has produced during the course of his career has been matched by few researchers."

¹ ISU policy for awarding honorary degrees stipulates that a former faculty or staff member is eligible for an honorary degree after a minimum of five years has transpired after the faculty or staff member left the university. Dr. Allen left ISU in May 2006.