

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN 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 J. Dwayne McAninch at Spring 2009 Commencement.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University wishes to recognize Mr. McAninch for his exceptional leadership in advancing the earth-moving and soils construction industry and his many contributions to education in the discipline.

Details on Mr. McAninch's Accomplishments:

- ◇ Mr. McAninch began his earth-moving business in 1954 at the age of 17. Within a few months, he paid off his tractor and began earth-moving and pond construction jobs in the Des Moines area. During the past 54 years, he has built the McAninch Corporation into one of the most advanced and successful earth-moving and underground utility contracting companies in the nation.
- ◇ Mr. McAninch has provided pioneering leadership in applying new technologies to his industry, including geotechnical engineering, global positioning systems, and computer-aided systems. His work with GPS-based geotechnical systems has become standard practice in the industry, resulting in a reduction of site preparation time and cost of almost 30%. His current focus is to infuse a completely digital design and construction environment requiring little or no paper-drawn plans.
- ◇ Mr. McAninch was named Engineer of the Year in 2006 by *Engineering News-Record*, the most prominent journal in the construction field, for his many achievements.
- ◇ Mr. McAninch has generously supported the Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering programs at Iowa State University with his time and resources. He played a leading role in assisting the department to establish the nation's first hybrid geo-construction engineering initiative, and provided a leadership gift to enable the department to acquire a one-of-a kind mobile soils testing laboratory.

The success of Mr. McAninch's company reflects his cutting-edge vision, entrepreneurial motivation, and engineering know-how. He is to be commended for a highly creative engineering spirit which has incorporated state-of-the-art technologies with the potential to provide faster, cheaper, and safer solutions to the challenge of moving and compacting soil. His insight and passion have been credited with leading the earth-moving industry into the digital age.