REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Martin J. Sepulveda at Spring 2017 Commencement.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Dr. Sepulveda for his outstanding contributions in developing and promoting new thinking and innovative business practices in support of better health at the individual, family, corporate, and community levels.

Details on Dr. Sepulveda’s Accomplishments:

- Dr. Sepulveda graduated magna cum laude from Yale University in 1974 and attended both Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, graduating with an M.D. degree and an M.P.H. degree in 1978. His residencies brought him to Moffitt Hospitals at the University of California in San Francisco and to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Morgantown, West Virginia. From 1984 to 1985, he was a fellow in internal medicine at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

- After completing his fellowship, Dr. Sepulveda remained closely affiliated with the University of Iowa. He has been dedicated to the development of the College of Public Health, and is a charter member of the college’s Board of Advisors, serving continuously since 1999. He was a founding member of the External Advisory Committee of the UI Health Workforce Center for Excellence, and served in that role from 2006 until 2013. In 2003, he received the university’s highest alumni honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement. In 2013, he received the College of Public Health’s highest honor, the Richard and Barbara Hansen Leadership Award and Distinguished Lectureship.

- In 1985, Dr. Sepulveda began a career with IBM, where he served in a variety of capacities, both as a physician delivering clinical care and a manager solving the occupational health problems of a large workforce. During his three decade career with IBM, Dr. Sepulveda’s visionary leadership established the company as a health care innovator in the U.S. private sector. He was instrumental in the development of a “total health management” framework which recognizes the importance of promoting physical, mental, emotional, and social health that has since become a model for other employers around the globe.

- In 2009, IBM elevated him to the title of IBM Fellow, its most prestigious technical honor for his contributions to population and occupational health and for “having advanced national priorities for health care delivery reform, healthier people, and healthier workplaces.

- He recently retired as vice president for global well-being services and health benefits design at the IBM Corporation.

- Dr. Sepulveda has served on advisory panels and commissions for the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Commonwealth Fund, and has co-authored six national reports for the Institute of Medicine. He provides pro-bono service to organizations including the New York Academy of Medicine in the area of urban health, and the Council on Health Research for Economic Development in the area of health research capacity building in low-income countries.
Whether he was designing multicultural AIDS education modules for IBM's diverse international workforce or elevating the level of occupational clinical practice at IBM's worldwide facilities, Sepulveda brought quality to all he did. His personal commitment, passion for excellence, and strategic vision have led to safety standards that have become a model for the advancement of occupational health services not only for more than 300,000 IBM employees around the world, but for other international employers and communities.

He is the recipient of honors from the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians in recognition of his contributions to internal medicine, primary care, and children’s health. He holds the rank of Fellow in the American College of Physicians, the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and the American College of Preventive Medicine. He was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine) in 2014.

The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Dr. Sepulveda’s extraordinary achievements.