

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents

From: Board Office

Subject: Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree at Iowa State University to Dr. Joanne Bubolz Eicher

Date: September 8, 2003

Recommended Action: Approve Iowa State University's request to award an honorary doctorate of humane letters degree to Dr. Joanne Bubolz Eicher at Fall 2003 commencement.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University is requesting approval to award an honorary doctorate of humane letters degree to Dr. Joanne Bubolz Eicher at Fall 2003 commencement.

Reason for Award ISU would like to recognize Dr. Eicher for her pioneering contributions to and leadership in the field of textiles and clothing and for her 40 years of studying and focusing scholarly attention on the richly varied textile traditions of Africa.

Prior Recognition Dr. Eicher has received much recognition for her work, including election as a Charter Fellow from the International Textiles and Apparel Association; Award of Merit from the Gamma Sigma Delta Agricultural Honorary Society; Bobbin Educator of the Year from the International Textiles and Apparel Association; and Tribute to Excellence Award from the Fashion Group International.

Research Focus Dr. Eicher has focused her research on understanding the textiles traditions of Africa. She has visited Africa on 10 occasions and she has helped stage more than 20 exhibits in public, private, and university museums by providing expertise and examples of African textiles. Her research trips resulted in two books, 11 book chapters, and six scholarly articles on the textiles of the Kalabari and other peoples of Nigeria. She has produced highly valued research on the Hmong of Southeast Asia as well as peoples in North America.

Additional Areas
of Concentration

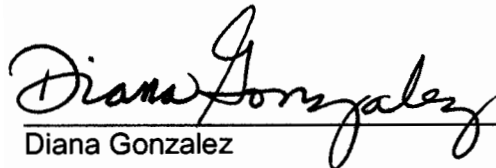
Dr. Eicher has also concentrated on the idea of "the dressed body as nonverbal communication" in contemporary North America and Asia, beginning with benchmark research in the 1960s on adolescent dress and development. One monograph, *Dress, Adornment, and the Social Order*, co-authored with Dr. Mary Ellen Roach-Higgins, became a classic text in university courses in the United States and abroad. Dr. Eicher is a supportive mentor of graduate students, a successful grants writer, and a good colleague to people in her field.

Academic
Background

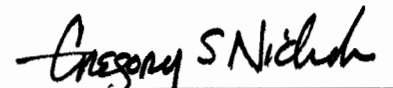
Dr. Eicher received her B.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University. After serving on the faculty at Michigan State University, Dr. Eicher has served with distinction on the faculty at the University of Minnesota.

Nominations

The Departments of Apparel, Educational Studies, and Hospitality Management and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences have nominated Dr. Eicher for the honorary degree. The Faculty Senate Honorary Degrees Committee unanimously supported the recommendation as did the Faculty Senate Executive Board. The Office of the Provost also supports the recommendation, which President Gregory Geoffroy is pleased to present to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.


Diana Gonzalez

Approved:


Gregory S. Nichols