

RESOLUTION: Honoring Trustee Dr. William F. Pickard's Leadership Legacy

A resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for Dr. William F. Pickard, distinguished alumnus and former Trustee to the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees.

WHEREAS, The members of this fiduciary body were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. William Pickard, a strong advocate for young people, diversity, and Western Michigan University, he understood the power of higher education and used his success to help others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William F. Pickard graduated from Western Michigan University in 1964 and holds a Master's degree from University of Michigan and a doctoral degree from Ohio State University; became an esteemed resident of Detroit and renowned entrepreneur, spending decades building business success and as well as teaching at University of Michigan's Ross Business School and Wayne State University; breaking down racial barriers as one of the first black men to own a McDonald's franchise and was CEO of Bearwood Management McDonald's; in 1999, he launched and was chairman for Global Automotive Alliance LLC; was a co-managing partner of MGM Grand Detroit Casino, and co-owner of five black-owned newspapers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William F. Pickard was passionate about supporting young people and students of color, which inspired him to establish many endowments and scholarships at various universities, including WMU. Dr Pickard served on a number of business and nonprofit boards including the National Urban League, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Black Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and the executive board of the NAACP; and was honored with many awards and accolades throughout his career.

He was recognized with a WMU Distinguished Alumni Award in 1980; named Detroit News Michiganian of the Year in 2001 for his mentorship of new entrepreneurs and his leadership at Global Automotive; honored as Detroit Magazine's Detroiter of the Year for leadership and philanthropy particularly in the areas of the arts, education, and entrepreneurship in 2010; and received the Michigan Lifetime Humanitarian Award in 2019.

In 2016, he was appointed to the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William F. Pickard carried the heart of WMU with him throughout his life as a steward for the University in Detroit and the surrounding community, his name proudly graces residence halls and a conference room at WMU, cementing his legacy as a champion of the University for generations to come.

Over the years, Dr. Pickard's many gifts and commitments to WMU have totaled more than \$3.5 million, including the afore gift in excess of \$3 million for the Western Heights residence halls, which are comprised of Hall-Archer-Pickard east and Hall-Archer-Pickard west. Dr. Pickard also has supported a range of scholarship funds and grants, including a \$250,000 grant to establish the WMU Kalamazoo Public Schools Future Educators Program.

Above and beyond his mentorship, his philanthropic contributions have helped countless students achieve their dreams through scholarship and will stand testament to his belief in higher education and particularly the mission of Western Michigan University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William F. Pickard lived a life enthusiastically dedicated to accomplishment while giving back with his time, talent, and treasure to help others find their own success, leaving a legacy of leadership and philanthropy that his family can take great pride in; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees, that we offer this expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of Trustee Dr. William F. Pickard, distinguished alumnus and member of this fiduciary body from 2016-2018; and be it further

RESOLVED copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Pickard family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory and dedication to uphold his leadership legacy.