

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

2023

Frederick S. Upton
Doctor of Laws

Served as Congressman in U.S. House of Representatives. Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

2022

Audrey Morean Petersen

Co-founder of Jabil Circuit, renowned as an influential philanthropist as well as an accomplished visual artist.

2021

Kenneth V. Miller

WMU Alumnus, President and CEO of Millennium Restaurant Group and is also a principle of Haverco, a Kalamazoo, Michigan based investment management firm

2019

Dr. Bojie Fu

Dean of Faculty of Geographical Science, Beijing Normal University, President of the Geographical Society of China

2017

Antonio R. Flores

WMU Alumnus, President and CEO of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Leader in Education for U.S. Latino community

2016

Michel Legrand

Doctor of Humane Letters

Pianist, Composer, Conductor of International renown, featured arts of the Gilmore Keyboard Festival

2011

Ligia Amado Melo de Cardona

Doctor of Humane Letters

Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Technology, Dominican Republic

2009

Mr. Ngawangthondup Narkyid

Doctor of Laws

Tibetan monk, Acolyte to the Dalai Lama, Emissary for Tibetan Government-in-Exile, spiritual leader and scholar

2008

Mr. William Hough

Doctor of Science

Exceptional Service in Science and Education, South Pole exploration, early computer research, professor

2007

James Hettinger

Doctor of Public Service

Exemplary, Local Economic Development, Battle Creek Unlimited

Richard Enslen

Doctor of Law

Federal Judge

2006

Vaclav Havel

Doctor of Humanities

Former President of Czechslovakia / Czech Republic

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Arnost Lustig

Doctor of Humanities

Survivor of the Holocaust, publisher 20+ novels and short stories.

Jacqueline Mallinson

Doctor of Science

Science Educator

2003

Zack York

Doctor of Fine Arts

Alumna, singer

2002

Harry Gast

Doctor of Public Service

Emeritus Professor, Department of Theatre,
Western Michigan University

Elson S. Floyd

Doctor of Public Service

President, Western Michigan University

2001

Donald Gilmer

Doctor of Public Service

Speaker, Michigan House of Representatives

2000

Marin Mazzie

Doctor of Fine Arts

Alumna, Broadway Actress and two-time Tony
Arts Award nominee

John J. H. Schwarz, M.D.

Doctor of Public Service

Senator, State of Michigan

1999

James Paul Hickey

Doctor of Public Service

Former Representative, State of Michigan and
Commissioner, Michigan Bureau of State Lottery

Charles Perricone

Doctor of Public Service

State Senator

1998

Tim Allen

Doctor of Fine Arts

Comedian, actor, author, 1976 WMU
Bachelor of Science degree

Diether H. Haenicke

Doctor of Humane Letters

President, Western Michigan University

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1998

Jack Moss

Doctor of Public Service

Alumnus, ABC Network News Correspondent and Anchor

Kalamazoo Gazette Sports Editor

1997

Lü Bisong

Doctor of Humane Letters

President, Beijing New Asia University

1996

Jack P. Ragotzy

Doctor of Theatre Arts

Owner, Barn Theatre, Augusta, Michigan

Betty Ebert Ragotzy

Doctor of Theatre Arts

Posthumous

1996

Paul C. Hillegonds

Doctor of Public Service

Speaker of the House, Michigan House of Representatives

1995

Marilyn J. Schlack

Doctor of Public Service

President, Kalamazoo Valley Community College

1995

Richard T. Burke, Ph.D.

Doctor of Public Service

Vice President Emeritus for Regional Education and Economic Development and Associate Professor Emeritus of History, Western Michigan University

1994

C. Allen Alexander, M.D.

Doctor of Public Service

Physician who practiced in Kalamazoo Doctor of community for 65 years

1994

Dató Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, DPMS

Doctor of Education

Founder of Sunway College in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and President & Chief Executive Officer, The SungeiWay Group, Malaysia

1994

Madame Tere Cerutti

Doctor of Science

Chairman of the Board, OMG Cerutti S.p.A., Casale Monferrato, Italy; leader in the print communication industry and contributor to WMU Printing Management and Research Center

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1993

William U. Parfet

Doctor of Public Service

President, The Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Paul Erdos

Doctor of Science

Professor, Mathematical Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary

1993

Frederic W. Sammons

Doctor of Public Service

Occupational Therapist and Chairman, Fred Sammons, Division, Bissell Healthcare, Corp.

1992

Hans-Erick Keller

Doctor of Humane Letters

Professor of Romance Languages, Ohio State University, Medievalist

1992

William E. LaMothe

Doctor of Public Service

Former CEO of Kellogg Company of Battle Creek, Michigan

1992

Howard Wolpe

Doctor of Public Service

U. S. Congressman, 1978-1992

1992

Jurgen Schneider

Doctor of Fine Arts

1991

John M. Engler

Doctor of Laws

Governor of the State of Michigan

1990

Yehudi Menuhin

Doctor of Fine Arts

World renowned violinist/conductor

1990

William D. Ford

Doctor of Laws

U. S. Congressman, 15th District, Michigan

Fred W. Adams

Doctor of Public Service

Former Trustee, Western Michigan University

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1989

Yoshimi Takeda

Doctor of Music

Conductor, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra

1989

Tadao Ishikawa

Doctor of Public Administration

President, Keio University, Japan

James B. Wyngaarden, MD

Doctor of Science

Former Director, National Institutes of Health

1987

Dennis W. Archer, Jr.

Doctor of Laws

Professor, Special Education, University of Oregon

Wen Chao Chen

Doctor of Public Service

Former administrator, Kalamazoo College; civic leader

Leicester W. Farmer

Doctor of Public Service

Blind rehabilitation/mobility specialist affiliated with Veterans Administration Hospital, IL

1987

Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi

Doctor of Public Service

Minister of Defense, Malaysia

1988

Morris W. Hood, Jr.

Doctor of Laws

State Representative, Michigan

1988

Nelson Mandela

Doctor of Humanities

South African human rights/anti-apartheid activist

1986

Damon J. Keith

Doctor of Humane Letters

Circuit Judge, U. S. Court of Appeals

1986

Clarice C. Jones

Doctor of Public Service

Outgoing president, American Association of Retired Persons

Siegfried Englemann

Doctor of Education

Michigan Supreme Court Justice

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1986

Richard E. Sullivan

Doctor of Humane Letters

Professor of History, Michigan State University,
Specialty: Middle Ages

1985

Joseph B. Johnson

Doctor of Laws

Third president of Grambling State University

Valdis Muiznieks

Doctor of Laws

Kalamazoo chiropractor; active organizer of Latvian
programs at Western

1986

John T. Bernhard

Doctor of Humane Letters

Past President, Western Michigan University

Paula L. Blanchard

Doctor of Public Service

Spouse of Governor of Michigan

Gordon H. Millar

Doctor of Science

Engineer, former Vice President for Engineering,
John Deere Company

1984

Josef Svoboda

Doctor of Fine Arts

Teacher, architect, scenographer, theatrician

Clement Greenberg

Doctor of Fine Arts

Art critic and cultural figure

Ronald L. Graham

Doctor of Laws

Director of Mathematical Sciences Research Center
at AT&T Bell Labs, 1981 World Book Encyclopedia
Scientist of the Year

Allan W. Ostar

Doctor of Laws

President, American Association of State Colleges
and Universities; influential leader in American higher
education

Bayard Rustin

Doctor of Laws

President, A. Philip Randolph Educational Fund.
Active in national and worldwide endeavors for
equal rights and humanities reform

Vincent McGugan

*Doctor of Public
Service*

Ambassador of education, particularly international
education, former Foreign Service Officer

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1983

John Kemeny

Doctor of Laws

Founder and President, Kalamazoo Valley
Community College, served 15 years

Erick Hawkins

Doctor of Fine Arts

Leading American dancer, choreographer, dance
company owner

James Nelson

Doctor of Science

Retired senior researcher at Upjohn.
Research, provided technical breakthrough
in development of drug used to prevent organ
transplant rejection

Pinchas Zukerman

Doctor of Fine Arts

Violinist

Roger Smith

Doctor of Laws

Chairman and CEO, General Motors
Corporation

1982

Morton Bloomfield

Doctor of Letters

Chairman of Board, Amway Corporation

Shirley Chisholm

Doctor of Laws

Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of English
at Harvard University

James Duncan

Doctor of Laws

Democratic Congresswoman, U. S. House
of Representatives

W.Bruce Thomas

Doctor of Laws

President and CEO, First America Bank
Corporation of Michigan

Dale Lake

Doctor of Letters

Executive Vice President of Accounting
and Finance, U. S. Steel

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1980

Fred Keller

Doctor of Science

Former Visiting Professor in WMU Department of Psychology, distinguished researcher

Duane Roberts

Doctor of Public Service

Kalamazoo community leader and WMU graduate

Myong Won Suhr

Doctor of Laws

President, Chungnam National University

Jay Van Andel

*Doctor of Business
Admin.*

Professor of Mathematics at Dartmouth College

1979

Genevieve U. Gilmore

Doctor of Fine Arts

Civic leader, established Art Center, active in support of Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Pretty Lake Vacation Camp

1979

Ralph Blocksma, M.D.

Doctor of Medicine

Plastic surgeon in Grand Rapids, consultant, adjunct professor in Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology, WMU

Lionel H. Newsom

Doctor of Laws

President, Central State University in Ohio

Burrhus F. Skinner

Doctor of Science

Psychologist, founder of behavioral psychology

1977

Lynton K. Caldwell

Doctor of Laws

Teacher, environmentalist, Arthur C. Bentley Professor of Political Science and Environmental and Public Affairs, Indiana University

L. David Carley

Doctor of Laws

President of the Medical College of Wisconsin

Antonio C. Yamashita

Doctor of Humane Letters

President Emeritus of the University of Guam

1978

Gwendolyn Brooks

Doctor of Humanities

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1976

William G. Birch, Sr.

Doctor of Laws

Physician, "Foster parent" of WMU's
Physicians' Assistant Program

1974

Alphonse H. Aymond

Doctor of Public Service

President and Chairman of the Board,
Consumers Power Company

Mary Coleman

Doctor of Laws

Michigan Supreme Court Justice

Robert Coles

Doctor of Humanities

Social psychiatrist, author, known for
innovative work with the poor

Raymond L. Smith

Doctor of Science

President of Michigan Technological
University

Albert Nathaniel Whiting

Doctor of Laws

Chancellor of North Carolina Central
University

1973

Cornelia Kennedy

Doctor of Laws

Federal District Court Judge, Detroit

Otis Milton Smith

Doctor of Laws

Michigan Supreme Court Justice, Chairman of
Board of Trustees, Oakland University

William Spoelhof

Doctor of Laws

President, Calvin College

Henryk Szeryng

Doctor of Fine Arts

*[Not in any 1973 Commencement
programs]*

James W. Miller

Doctor of Public Service

President, Western Michigan University

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1973

Herman R. Branson

Doctor of Laws

President, Lincoln University

Sixten Ehrling

Doctor of Fine Arts

Conductor of the Detroit Symphony
Orchestra

Gerald R. Ford

Doctor of Laws

U. S. House of Representative, Minority
Leader

Cleo Hartwig

Doctor of Fine Arts

Sculptress

Richard Upjohn Light

Doctor of Laws

Neurosurgeon, philanthropist, author,
geographer, college trustee

Robert Butler MacVean

Doctor of Humanities

Head of the University of the Valley of
Guatemala

Cornelia Augenstein Robinson

Doctor of Public Service

Educator, civic leader, served on local and
state level committees

Daniel Martin Ryan

Doctor of Humanities

Editor, Kalamazoo Gazette

1972

Sister Mary Louse Bader

Doctor of Laws

President, Nazareth College

Helen Natalie Claytor

Doctor of Public Service

National President, Young Women's
Christian Association

John F. Leyerle

Doctor of Letters

Director of the Centre for Medieval
Studies, University of Toronto

Laurence K. Shook

Doctor of Letters

President of the Pontifical Institute
of Medieval Studies at Toronto

1972

Russell H. Seibert

Doctor of Humanities

Vice President for Academic Affairs,

1971

Anatol Rapoport

Doctor of Humane Letters

Teacher and researcher at the University of
Toronto

Joan Wolfe

Doctor of Public Service

Executive Secretary and founder of the
West Michigan Environmental Action
Council

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1971

Talbert Abrams

Doctor of Laws

Geographer, explorer, aerial photographer

Henry Lewis Batts, Jr.

Doctor of Science

Founder and developer of Kalamazoo Nature Center

Gwen Frostic

Doctor of Humanities

Michigan artist, poet, publisher and WMU alumna

Senator Robert Paul

Griffin

Doctor of Laws

U. S. Senator from Michigan

Senator Philip A. Hart

Doctor of Laws

U. S. Senator from Michigan

John William Porter

Doctor of Laws

State superintendent of Public Instruction, Michigan

Robert Joseph Smithdas

Doctor of Humanities

Community Education Director for the National Center for Blind-Deaf Youths and Adults (he is blind & deaf)

1970

Charles I. Schottland

Doctor of Laws

Acting President of Brandeis University

Samuel J. Simmons

Doctor of Public Service

Assistant Secretary for Equal Opportunity of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

Fred Wallace Haise, Jr.

Doctor of Science

Apollo XIII Astronaut

James Arthur Lovell, Jr.

Doctor of Science

Apollo XIII Astronaut (Flight Commander)

John Leonard Swigert, Jr

Doctor of Science

Apollo XIII Astronaut (Command Module Pilot)

Wilma Thompson Donahue

Doctor of Humanities

Gerontologist, Advisor to United States Administration on Aging, former University of Michigan faculty member

Frederick J. Margolis, M.D.

Doctor of Public Service

Kalamazoo pediatrician

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1969

Edwin C. Berry

Doctor of Laws

Secretary of the United Church of Christ

Joseph Henry Evans

Doctor of Humanities

Professor of Oceanography at University of Michigan, author of *Geology of the Great Lakes*

Jack Luin Hough

Doctor of Science

Governor of Michigan

William Grawn Milliken

Doctor of Laws

Executive Director of the Chicago Urban League

Agnes deMille

Doctor of Fine Arts

Choreographer, dancer, author

James A. Foxgrover

Doctor of Laws

President, Perkins-Goodwin Company

John A. Hannah

Doctor of Laws

President, Michigan State University

L. William Seidman

Doctor of Laws

Chairman of the Board, Grand Valley State College

1968

Lewis M. Branscomb

Doctor of Science

Chairman of the Joint Institute of Laboratory Astrophysics, University of Colorado

Robben W. Fleming

Doctor of Laws

President, University of Michigan

Dorothy L. Judd

Doctor of Laws

Civic Leader, Grand Rapids

1967

Robert Angell

Doctor of Humanities

Chairman of Sociology Department, University of Michigan and Co-Director of the Center for Research on Conflict Resolution

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1966

Kenneth E. Boulding

Doctor of Humanities

Economist, author, University of Michigan faculty

Earl C. Kelley

Doctor of Education

Distinguished Professor, Wayne State University

Maurice F. Seay

Doctor of Laws

Dean of the College of Education, Michigan State University

Harold Taylor

Doctor of Laws

President, Sarah Lawrence College, Consultant in Education

William S. Woodfill

Doctor of Laws

Member, Mackinac Island State Park Commission, Grand Hotel owner, "founder" Michigan Tourist Council

1965

Robert P. Briggs

Doctor of Laws

Executive Vice President, Consumers Power Company

Frederick Donner

Doctor of Business Administration

Chairman of the Board, General Motors

Urban T. Holmes

Doctor of Literature

Professor at the University of North Carolina

Charles S. Lewis

Doctor of Humanities

Principal, Detroit Central High School

George Romney

Doctor of Laws

Governor of Michigan

Robert Sargent Shriver Jr.

Doctor of Laws

Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity (Job Corps), Director of the Peace Corps

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1964

Hugh Gardner Ackley

Doctor of Laws

Chairman of Department of Economics,
University of Michigan and member of the
President's Council of Economic Advisors

Alvin D. Loving, Sr.

Doctor of Humanities

Executive Director of the Mayor's Committee
on Community Action for Detroit Youth

Charles J. Scanlon

*Doctor of Business
Administration*

President of the Federal Reserve Bank of
Chicago

Everett Gifford Upjohn

Doctor of Laws

Chairman of the Board, Upjohn Company

1963

Simeon O. Adebo

Doctor of Laws

Permanent Representative of Nigeria at the
United Nations

Avery O. Craven

Doctor of Laws

Visiting Distinguished Professor of History,
President of the Mississippi Valley Historical
Association

President, KVP Sutherland Paper Company

Dwight L. Stocker

Doctor of Laws

Professor of Education, Teachers College, Columbia
University

Florence B. Stratmeyer

Doctor of Education

G.Mennen Williams

Doctor of Laws

Asst. Secretary of State for African Affairs and
former Governor of Michigan

Russell C. Williams

Doctor of Humanities

Chief of the Blind Rehabilitation Section of the
Veterans Administration's Department of Medicine
and Surgery (he was blinded in WW II)

1962

Alfred Barnes Connable

Doctor of Humanities

Private trustee, member of the Board of
Directors of the American Symphony Orchestra

Andrew W. Cordier

Doctor of Laws

Dean of the Graduate School of International
Affairs, Columbia University

Weimer K. Hicks

Doctor of Laws

President, Kalamazoo College

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1961

Ray R. Eppert

Doctor of Laws

President, Burroughs Corporation, Electric Computers

Florence N. Hanes

Doctor of Science

Botanist, collector, co-author of Flora of Kalamazoo County

William H. Hastie

Doctor of Laws

Judge of the Third U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Philadelphia, PA

1960

Norman Cousins

Doctor of Literature

Editor, Saturday Review of Literature, Writer

Karla H. Parker

Doctor of Laws

President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Dael Lee Wolfle

Doctor of Science

Administrative Secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

1959

Louis Calder

Doctor of Laws

Representative, Second Kalamazoo District, Michigan State Legislature

David R. Tashjian

Doctor of Science

Editor, American Heritage

Cyril H. Root

Master of Public Admin.

President and General Manager of Fetzer Broadcasting Company

1958

Bruce Catton

Doctor of Literature

Chairman, Department of Special Education and Vocational Rehabilitation, Wayne State University

John E. Fetzer

Doctor of Laws

Public benefactor, author, service to paper industry

John Joseph Lee

Doctor of Laws

Manager of Electronics Engineering Division, Westinghouse Electric Corp.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1957

Harold E. Churchill

Doctor of Science

Bert H. Cooper

Master of Science

Roy A. Morter

Doctor of Science

President of Studebaker-Packard Corp.

Vice President, Kalamazoo Paper Co. and
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on
Paper Technology

Former superintendent of Kalamazoo
State Hospital

1956

William H. Bannan

Doctor of Public Administration

Warden of the State Prison of Southern
Michigan

Olin W. Callighan

Master of Science

Minerals and Chemicals Corporation of
America

Carlton H. Morris

Doctor of Laws

Senator, Sixth District, Michigan

Wade Van Valkenburg

Doctor of Laws

Speaker of the House of Representatives

1955

W. Wallace Kent

Doctor of Laws

Supervisor, Part-time Trade and
Industrial Education, Dept. of Public
Transportation

Leta G. Snow (Mrs. Harry)

Master of Music

Assoc. Professor of Music, Western
Michigan College of Education

Lysander Thomas White

Master of Business Admin.

Vice President and Sales Manager,
Birmingham and Prosser Company

1954

John J. Harris

Master of Education

Judge of the U.S. District Court, Western
Division of Michigan

H. Glenn Anderson

Master of Music

Founder of the Kalamazoo Symphony
Orchestra

Earnest L. Ludwig

Master of Science

Director, City Service Petroleum, Inc.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1953

Marcillene Barnes

Master of Science

Director of Curriculum, Grand Rapids
Public Schools

Clarence H. Elliott

Master of Public Administration

City Manager, Kalamazoo

Eugene S. Thomas

Master of Education

Principal, Kalamazoo Central High
School

1952

Charles G. Burns

Doctor of Education

Principal, Northwestern High School,
Detroit, MI

E.L. Church

Master of Education

Civic Leader, Kalamazoo & state
committees. 1952 co-chair. American
Red Cross campaign

Harley W. Holmes

Doctor of Education

Superintendent, Marshall Public
Schools

C.B. Leaver

Master of Education

Superintendent, Kent City Schools

Ronald G. MacDonald

Doctor of Science

Secretary-Treasurer, Technical Assn.
of the Pulp and Paper Industry

1951

Theodore L. Brownyard

Doctor of Science

Chemist in the Bureau of Ordnance,
Navy Department, Washington, D.C.

Cleo Hartwig Glinsky

Master of Fine Arts

Artist/sculptress

Earl J. McGrath

Doctor of Laws

U. S. Commissioner of Education

L.C. Mohr

Doctor of Education

Superintendent, South Haven Schools

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

1944

Vernon J. Brown Auditor-General, State of Michigan, elected
Master of Public Administration Lt. Governor

1945

Edson V. Root, Sr. Previous superintendent of Western's
Master of Education Training School at Paw Paw

John K. Walsh

Doctor of Letters Editor of Kalamazoo Gazette

1946

Benjamin J. Buikema Assistant superintendent of schools, Grand
Master of Education Rapids

Louisa I. (Durham) Mohr Principal, Lakeview Jr. High, Battle Creek and
Master of Education Member, State Board of Education

1947

Forest G. Averill Superintendent, East Grand Rapids Public
Master of Education Schools

Herold C. Hunt Superintendent, Chicago Public Schools,
Doctor of Laws former Kalamazoo Public Schools
Superintendent

1948

Loy Norrix

Doctor of Laws Superintendent, Kalamazoo Public Schools

Merze Tate Professor of History, Howard University,
Doctor of Letters Washington, D.C.

1949

Edna Dean Baker President, National College of Education,
Doctor of Education Evanston, IL

Reed Waterman Designated "Dean of High School Coaches"
Master of Education by fellow coaches - coached many high
school teams in Michigan

Edith Wellever Professor of Education, Wayne University
Master of Education and supervisor of rural ed. in Wayne County

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

