

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 11
DATE: October 19, 2010

RECOMMENDATION

Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve Carol Goss, President and chief executive officer of the Skillman Foundation, as Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, December 19, 2010 commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Public Service to Ms. Goss.

SUMMARY

Ms. Goss' biography follows on the next page.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and it is recommended for Board approval.

\_\_\_\_\_  
University Executive Officer  
Provost and Executive Vice President

10-8-2010  
Date

**Carol Goss**

*President and chief executive officer  
The Skillman Foundation*

Carol Goss has been the president and chief executive officer of the Skillman Foundation since 2004, the most recent position in a series that showcases her 20-year involvement with philanthropy. The Skillman Foundation is a private, independent foundation whose mission is to improve the lives of children in metropolitan Detroit by improving their homes, schools and neighborhoods. This Foundation has assets of \$600 million and manages an annual grants budget of \$30 million.

Prior to joining the Skillman Foundation as senior program officer in 1998, Goss served as program officer at The Stuart Foundation in San Francisco, California, and as program director at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Her professional career also includes experience in the human services field as a social worker, social work supervisor and agency administrator with the Detroit Department of Public Welfare, Oakland County Family and Children's Services, and The Children's Home Society in Oakland, California.

In 2008 Goss received the City Mission Champion for Children award and was selected as the Eleanor Josaitis "Unsung Hero" recipient as part of the Shining Light Awards sponsored by the Detroit Free Press and Metropolitan Affairs Coalition. She was also selected as one of 25 women to be featured in the Charles H. Wright Museum's newest exhibit, "Women of a New Tribe." In 2007 Goss was named the James A. Joseph Lecturer by the Association of Black Foundation Executives and has been cited by Crain's Detroit Business as one of Southeast Michigan's Most Influential Women, an honor bestowed just once every five years to the region's most dynamic and powerful women.

Professional affiliations that Goss maintains include the Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families, the Association of Black Foundation Executives, and Women & Philanthropy.

Goss grew up in Detroit and during her teenage years did volunteer work for the YWCA. Her community service convinced her that she wanted to become a social worker and help people in need. She graduated from Detroit's Chadsey High School before heading to the University of Michigan where she received two degrees. Goss holds both a BA in sociology (1969) and a MSW (1972).

A mother of three and a grandmother of three, she enjoys singing in her church choir and long distance running. Her husband, Tom Goss, was athletic director of the University of Michigan from 1997 to 2000.