

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

SECTION:

DATE:

February 21, 2012

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS:**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve Mr. Dave Coverly, creator of the nationally syndicated cartoon "Speed Bump," and EMU alumnus, as Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, April 29, 2012 morning commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts to Mr. Coverly.

It is also recommended that the Board of Regents approve Mr. Brian Calley, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Michigan, as Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, April 29, 2012 afternoon commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Public Service to Mr. Calley.

**SUMMARY**

Mr. Coverly's and Mr. Calley's biographies follow 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

2/21/12

## Dave Coverly

Dave Coverly is the creator of the nationally syndicated single-panel comic strip "Speed Bump," which currently appears in more than 200 newspapers. He also created a line of cards promoted by American Greetings, and had composed two books, "Caution Speed Bump: Collection of Cartoon Skidmarks," released in 2000, and "Speed Bump: Cartoons for Idea People," released in 2004.

During his time at EMU in the 1980's, Coverly, who majored in philosophy, ran an early cartoon strip, "Freen", in The Eastern Echo. He also participated in two Undergraduate Symposiums, which he credits with inspiring him to attend graduate school in creative writing and continue developing as a creative artist. Coverly graduated from EMU in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and imaginative writing. He also graduated with a Master's in creative writing from Indiana University in 1992.

In the early 1990's Coverly's cartoons became regularly reprinted in such publications as Esquire, Saturday Evening Post, The New York Times, and USA Today. In 1994, Creators Syndicate picked up his untitled cartoon panel, helped choose the name Speed Bump, and a year later it was running in nearly 100 papers. Coverly left The Herald-Times in 1995 to concentrate on his syndicated work.

In 1995, and again in 2003, Speed Bump was given the Best Newspaper Panel award by the National Cartoonists Society, an honor for which it was also nominated again in 1997, 2001, and 2002. In 1998, the same organization gave him another award for Best Greeting Cards, which were nominated again in 1999.

In addition to his syndicated work, Coverly's cartoons have been published in *The New Yorker*, and his cartoons are now regularly featured in *Parade Magazine*, the most widely read magazine in the world with a circulation of 73 million. He also donates cartoons and artwork to both of PETA's magazines, *Animal Times* and *Grrr! For Kids*. Over the years, his work has been published in hundreds of school textbooks, magazines, newsletters, and a variety of merchandise, including greeting cards and calendars for American Greetings, beer bottle labels for Bellis Brewery, and CD covers for The Bob & Tom Show. His art has been exhibited in Kilkenny Castle in Ireland, been honored with a retrospective gallery show at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, and original pieces also hang in the offices of numerous luminaries, including Wolf Blitzer and Anderson Cooper.

Coverly resides in Ann Arbor with his wife, Chris, and daughters Alayna and Simone.

## **Brian Calley**

Brian Calley is the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Michigan, the second youngest in Michigan's history. Before being elected to this position, Calley served two terms in the Michigan Legislature as a state representative. In that role, Calley served as minority vice chair of the House Tax Policy Committee where he worked with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle. Calley is committed to continuing this spirit of bipartisanship to bring an end to the bitter fighting and divisiveness that has held Michigan back for so long.

Prior to his time as a state lawmaker, Calley worked 10 years as a community banker and small business lender. He was also elected to the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, serving from 2003 to 2006 as the vice chairman for all four years of his tenure there. Calley graduated from Michigan State University in 1998 with a B.A. in business administration and received his MBA from Grand Valley State University in 2000.

Calley is an active member of the Portland Baptist Church where he is a song leader and pianist as well as serving on the deacon board. His wife Julie teaches Sunday school to middle school age children. Together, they have three young children: Collin, Reagan and Karagan.