

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 21
DATE:
February 19, 2013

RECOMMENDATION

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS:

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve Mr. Scott Reynolds, television show writer, producer and editor, and EMU alumnus, as Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, April 28, 2013 morning commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Arts and Letters to Mr. Reynolds, and an honorary Doctor of Education to Senator Randy Richardville at the morning ceremony.

It is also recommended that the Board of Regents approve Mr. Robert Holman, Jr., EMU alumnus, donor, and community businessperson, as Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, April 28, 2013 afternoon commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Business Administration to Mr. Holman, and honorary Doctorates of Education to philanthropists William (Bill) and Delores (Dee) Brehm at the afternoon ceremony.

SUMMARY

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

Scott Reynolds

Writer and co-producer of the TV series “Dexter” on Showtime, Scott Reynolds is a 1995 Eastern Michigan University alumnus, having received a Bachelors of Science in English Literature, Film Studies, and Theater. He has also worked on the TV series “E-Ring” and “Skin.”

Randy Richardville

Randy Richardville was elected to the Michigan Senate in November, 2006. Upon re-election in 2010, he was selected as Senate Majority Leader by his fellow Republican caucus members. Prior to his election to the Senate, Randy spent three terms in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1999-2004. He held a leadership position in the House in each of his terms - serving as the House Majority Floor Leader during his final term.

Throughout his years in the Legislature, Randy has focused on particularly on the areas of economic development, and veteran's and children's issues. Among his legislative accomplishments, he has passed laws to expand neighborhood enterprise zones; extend brownfield tax credits to clean up industrial property; expand Smartzones; create training requirements for mortgage loan officers; expand state programs to help those facing foreclosures; and create a lead-free safe housing registry. Earlier this year Senator Richardville offered legislation which was adopted by the Michigan Senate to re-instate funding for Eastern Michigan University's Autism Collaborative Center. He has been a longtime supporter of the autism cause and a sponsor of Senate Bill 981 which provides for an autism coverage fund in the Department of Treasury to reimburse health insurers for claims paid for autism spectrum disorder diagnoses and evidence-based treatment.

Prior to being elected to office, Randy worked in the business community, logging 20 years experience in Fortune 500 companies. He served as the Economic Development Director for the Port & City of Monroe before being elected to the Senate. He has won numerous awards including being named legislator of the year by both the Deputy Sheriffs Association and Michigan Sheriff's Association. Since being elected to the Senate he has been honored with awards from the Police Officer's Association of Michigan, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union, the state YMCA boards, the Hemophilia Foundation, Michigan State Medical Society, and the Certified Public Accountants. The American Legion and other veteran's organizations have also honored Randy for his work on behalf of men and women serving in the armed forces.

Randy was born and raised in Monroe County. He earned a degree in Finance from Albion College and later earned his Masters of Management from Aquinas College. He has been active for years in several community organizations.

Robert Holman, Jr.

Consultant and retired executive from Discount Tire Company, Robert Holman, Jr. graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1974 with a Bachelors' of Business Administration in Accounting. During his time as a student at Eastern, Holman started working for Discount Tire Company, eventually transferring to the company's headquarters and being promoted to vice president. With his rigorous work ethic and industrious outlook, he was senior vice president and the chief financial officer of his company upon retirement. Discount Tire was founded by fellow

EMU alumnus, Bruce T. Halle, donor of the Bruce T. Halle Endowment, which eventually supported funding of the Bruce T. Halle Library on campus. Inspired by Bruce T. Halle's gift to Eastern, Holman made a significant contribution to EMU, and the Holman Success Center was subsequently named in his honor.

William (Bill) and Delores (Dee) Brehm

Delores "Dee" Soderquist grew up in Southeastern Michigan and didn't aspire to attend college until she received a small scholarship to attend Michigan State Normal College. During her years in college she met her future husband, Bill Brehm. Dee graduated in 1952 with a major in special education focusing on the mentally impaired. Bill, a native of Dearborn, received his bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from the University of Michigan and pursued a successful career in business, government, and public service. He served as assistant secretary of the Army under Presidents Johnson and Nixon, and later as assistant secretary of defense under Presidents Nixon and Ford. He is chairman emeritus of SRA International, an information technology provider to government and industry, and continues to be active in public service.

After college, Dee and Bill were married and moved to the San Diego area where Dee taught prior to starting their family and Bill pursued his business career. Dee attributes her success to that initial college scholarship. Dee and Bill wanted to give back to Dee's alma mater by establishing an endowed scholarship that would offer special education students a life-changing award, just as she received when she was a student. Consequently they made a donation of \$3.2 million to Eastern's College of Education, the largest gift in the University's history. This donation was used to establish the Delores Soderquist Brehm Center for Special Education Scholarship and Research and to fully endow programs that they have been supporting for several years on an annual basis. In addition to the \$3.2 million donation, the Brehms also have donated \$115,000 to complete their endowment for the John Barson Fellowship in Public Administration.