

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 18

DATE:

March 17, 2015

RECOMMENDATION

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS:**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve Sally Young, television producer, as morning Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, April 26, 2015 commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Arts degree to Ms. Young.

It is also recommended that the Board of Regents approve Charlie Batch, former NFL quarterback, community advocate, author, media personality, entrepreneur and professional speaker, as afternoon Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, April 26, 2015 commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree to Mr. Batch.

**SUMMARY**

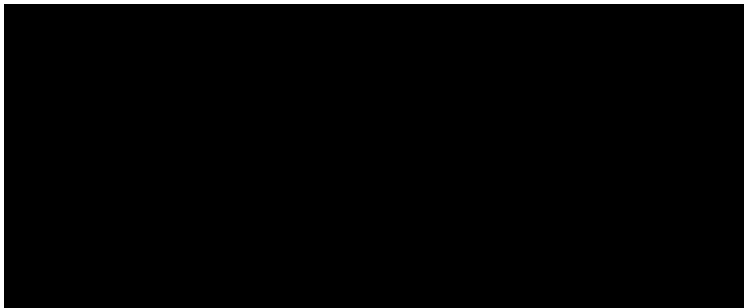
Biographies for these individuals follow on the next two pages.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

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



University Executive Officer

*2/26/15*

Date

## **Sally Young**

Sally Young grew up in Birmingham, Michigan, and graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1972 after majoring in family life and minoring in psychology and sociology. While at Eastern, she worked on the Eastern Echo student newspaper and was involved in student government. Young received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from EMU in 1978.

Over the span of 40 years, Young went from being a secretary to a producer of a major, mainstream television show. After graduating from EMU, Young worked at W.B. Doner Advertising in Southfield for three years. She started there as a secretary and left there as a commercial producer, having worked among a group that included Lawrence Kasdan, who later became a screenwriter and director of such major films as "The Big Chill" and "Body Heat;" Thom Sharp, who did many on camera and voice-over commercials; and Cathy Guisewite, creator of the widely syndicated "Cathy" comic strip and the TV series "Caroline and the City." The group all ended up in Hollywood.

Young is a producer of the Emmy-Award winning ABC-TV comedy series "Modern Family." The series has a record-tying five consecutive Emmy Awards for Outstanding Comedy Series, equaling "Frasier" for the most consecutive awards in that category. The series has also won a Golden Globe Award for Best Comedy Television Series.

## **Charlie Batch**

Charles D'Donte "Charlie" Batch is an NFL quarterback, community advocate, author, media personality, entrepreneur and professional speaker. His NFL career spanned 15 years, 60 touchdowns and more than 11,000 passing yards. He was drafted in the second round as a starting quarterback in 1998 by the Detroit Lions after earning his degree in criminal justice from Eastern Michigan University, where he had set numerous school and MAC conference records. In 2002, he joined the Pittsburgh Steelers as back-up quarterback and was instrumental in critical game wins that led the team to Super Bowl XL and XLIII.

His leadership within the NFL included positions such as the Vice President, Executive Committee for the NFL Players Association and NFL Spokesperson for the United Way. In retirement, he has continued to be a respected strategist in the NFL, providing game commentary for national sports outlets including CBS, FOX, NBC, ABC, ESPN, NFL Network, SiriusXM NFL Radio and Yahoo! Sports. Locally, he's a frequent guest on Pittsburgh's WDVE Morning Show and broadcasts WPIAL games in partnership with KDKA-TV Sports.

Batch has established himself as community advocate, philanthropist and public speaker. In 1999, he created the Best of the Batch Foundation, which gives Pittsburgh city kids a safe place to learn and grow. The Foundation includes a summer basketball league that teaches good sportsmanship and life skills; year-long reading and computer literacy programs; a Batchpacks for Kids school supply program, and much more.

In addition to his own foundation, Batch serves on multiple boards including the Strong Women Strong Girls National Advisory Board, the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society, and the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, among others. He is a National Speakers Association (NSA) professional speaker, and he has completed several NFL Business Management, Communications and Entrepreneurial programs through Harvard Business School, Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, Stanford University Graduate School of Business, the University of Notre Dame and Bowling Green State University.

Batch has received numerous awards, include the United Way of Allegheny County Outstanding Campaign Volunteer of the Year in 2014, the Byron "Whizzer" White NFL Man of the Year Award, and the Baptist Ministries Conference Award "Hero in the Midst."

A graduate of Steel Valley High School and a native of Homestead, Pennsylvania, Batch continues to reside there with his wife, Latasha, and their five dogs.