

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

SECTION: 16

DATE:

February 5, 2016

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT:**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve State Representative David E. Rutledge as Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, April 24, 2016 commencement ceremonies. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree to Mr. Rutledge.

**SUMMARY**

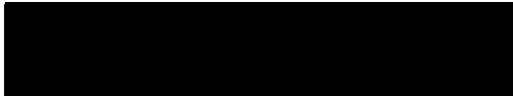
A biography for Mr. Rutledge follows on the next page.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

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

  
University Executive Officer

1/18/16  
Date

## **David E. Rutledge, Biography**

State Representative David E. Rutledge received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Tennessee State University and has done graduate work at both Harvard Law School and the University of Michigan Law School. He is a military veteran having served in the United States Air Force as a Personnel Officer achieving the rank of Captain.

His work history includes both public and private sector experiences. In September of 2003, he was elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Community College Trustees headquartered in Washington, DC. Although he has rotated off the board, he is still active with community colleges nationally. He was re-elected in 2008 to serve a third 6-year term on the Board of Trustees at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

David has held elective office as a Township Supervisor serving two consecutive four-year terms. After choosing not to run for a third term, he was appointed by the then-Speaker of the House, Gary Owen, to serve as Deputy Director of the Legislative Research Staff for the Michigan House of Representatives.

David has served on state commissions appointed by two governors from different political parties. He has previously served on the local Board of Directors for Citizens Bank and is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. He served on the Board of Dawn Farm Drug Rehabilitation Center; is a former member of the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce; served as chair of the Washtenaw County Parks Commission and was a member for 32 years. Because of his leadership and service to his community and the State of Michigan, David has been honored by the Ann Arbor News as its Citizen of the Year. He has also been honored by Help Source, Inc., a non-profit organization, with its "Toast of the Town" Award for community service.

David was elected in 2010 to a two-year term to represent the 54th District in the Michigan House of Representatives, and was reelected in 2012. In May of 2013, David was elected by his colleagues to serve as the Democratic Floor Leader for the Michigan House of Representatives. He was reelected for his final term as State Representative in 2014.

David and his wife, Geraldine Simmons Rutledge, were married for 49 years before she passed away in 2015. Together, they had two children, Marcus and Felicia, and two grandchildren, Kelton and Darius.