

SECTION: 14

DATE:

October 25, 2019

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**RECOMMENDATION**

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve Senator Gary Peters as Commencement Speaker at the December 15, 2019 commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree to Senator Peters.

It is recommended that the Board of Regents award an honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree to Mr. Jack Roush at the December 15, 2019 commencement ceremony.

**STAFF SUMMARY**

Biographies for Senator Peters and Mr. Roush follow.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
University Executive Officer  
Rhonda Longworth, Ph.D.

10/11/19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Biography for Mr. Gary Peters, United States Senator for Michigan**



Elected in 2014, Senator Gary Peters is honored to represent the State of Michigan in the U.S. Senate. Throughout his career in public service, Peters has been a strong, independent voice for Michigan's middle class families and small businesses. He has focused on uniting our communities by fighting for the things that we all agree on—a stronger economy, good-paying jobs, affordable health care, a secure retirement and a fair chance for everyone to succeed.

Senator Peters was born in Pontiac, Michigan and has lived his entire life in Southeast Michigan. His father was a World War II veteran and public school teacher, and his mother worked at a local nursing home where she organized her workplace as an SEIU union steward. Peters is a product of Michigan schools, graduating from Alma College where he earned a B.A. in Political Science. After graduation, while working a full time job and

raising a family, he went on to earn an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Detroit Mercy, a law degree from Wayne State University Law School and an M.A. in Philosophy from Michigan State University.

For more than 20 years, Peters worked as an investment advisor, helping families save for their retirement and provide for their children's college education. He volunteered for the U.S. Navy Reserve at age 34, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, and he volunteered again for drilling status after the September 11th terrorist attacks.

Peters began his public service as a Rochester Hills City Councilman in 1991 before being elected to the Michigan State Senate and serving as the Michigan State Lottery Commissioner. First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008, Peters fought to ensure the survival of our local auto industry and worked to hold the bad actors on Wall Street that caused the recession accountable.

In the 115th Congress, Gary serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Joint Economic Committee.

He and his wife, Colleen, live in Oakland County and have three children: Gary Jr., Madeleine and Alana.

## **Biography for Mr. Jack Roush**

Born in Covington, Kentucky in 1942, Jack Roush was always interested in finding out what made things tick. He received his mathematics degree with a minor in physics from Berea College in 1964 and moved to Detroit to go to work for Ford Motor Company that same year. He went on to earn his Master's Degree in Scientific Mathematics from Eastern Michigan University in 1970.

While working for Ford Motor Co., Roush was drawn to the company's extensive motorsports activities, and in 1966 joined a group of fellow racing enthusiasts called "The Fastbacks." After leaving Ford, he partnered with Wayne Gapp in 1970 in a racing venture that would see the duo attract national attention by winning several events and one championship each in NHRA, IHRA and AHRA with their Pro Stock racer.

From 1971-1972, Roush was an assistant professor of engineering at Monroe Community College where he taught trigonometry, physics and an array of technical courses to aspiring automotive technicians. He said, "I enjoyed teaching as much as anything I've ever done in my career."

In 1976, Roush formed Jack Roush Performance Engineering. His success on the track, combined with his reputation as a performance engineer helped his young business thrive, and although he stopped operating a race team in the late 1970's, his company stayed well entrenched in the sport; building engines for other teams throughout the early 1980's. In 1988, Roush launched his first NASCAR Cup team with driver Mark Martin. In October 1989, Roush and Martin claimed their first NASCAR Cup victory at North Carolina Motor Speedway and the two would go on to form one of the most successful partnerships in NASCAR history.

Jack Roush joined forces with Robert Yates to form Roush Yates Engines in 2003. The engine shop, based out of Mooresville, N.C. is the exclusive NASCAR engine builder for Ford Performance and manufacturer's engines for Roush Fenway Racing, Team Penske, Wood Brothers, Stewart-Haas Racing, Front Row Motorsports and Go Fas Racing.

In 2007, Roush Racing and Fenway Sports Group (FSG) announced the formation of Roush Fenway Racing, an unprecedented relationship that brought together two championship organizations with a distinguished track record of success in their respective businesses and sports.

Roush also heads up ROUSH Industries, Inc., which employs more than 1,800 people and operates facilities in five states, as well as in Mexico and Great Britain. Although primarily known for providing engineering, management and prototype services to the transportation industry, Roush has developed a significant role in providing engineering and manufacturing for the electronics, sports equipment, aviation and motorsports industries.