

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 11  
DATE:  
April 20, 2023

**RECOMMENDATION**

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS**

**ACTION REQUESTED**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve Mr. Hussein Berry as Commencement Speaker at the April 30, 2023 commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree to Mr. Berry.

It is further recommended that the Board of Regents approve Ms. Nicole Brown as Commencement Speaker at the April 30, 2023 commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Ms. Brown.

**STAFF SUMMARY**

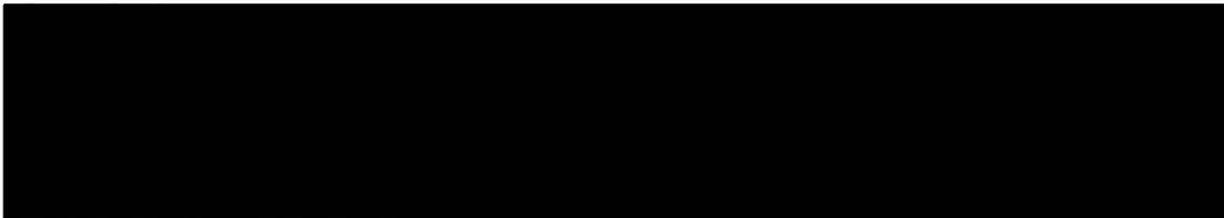
Biographies for Mr. Berry and Ms. Brown follow.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

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



## Mr. Hussein Berry

Mr. Hussein Berry is the Vice President of Operations for the Detroit and US Central Region of Delta Airlines. Mr. Berry is responsible for the strategic operations of Delta's main airport in Detroit and 18 other regional airports. This comprises management of approximately 500 departures per day and over 4,500 Delta and business partner employees. Hussein is also the executive sponsor of Delta's global baggage operation, which was tasked with obtaining the No. 1 Department of Transportation (DOT) industry position, which was achieved in 2022.



Mr. Berry began his aviation career in 1993 as a wheelchair pusher for Northwest Airlines, which later merged with Delta. Hussein subsequently held a variety of leadership positions in finance and operations at the Detroit, Atlanta, and JFK terminals in New York.

Hussein spearheaded community efforts to raise over \$1 million for the University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital. He serves on the Board of Directors and the Sub-Committee Board for Racial Justice & Economic Equity Board of the Regional Detroit Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Hussein was recognized by the American Arab Chamber of Commerce as Professional of the Year for 2020.

Hussein Berry possesses a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Davenport University as well as two postgraduate degrees from Wayne State University: an MBA and a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering (MSIE).

## Ms. Nicole Brown

Nicole Brown currently serves as the mayor of Ypsilanti. She received 76% of the vote to become the city's youngest and first black female mayor. Brown is a social worker by profession, but she has experience in municipal politics. She represented the 1st Ward of Ypsilanti for two terms on the city council and served as Mayor Pro Tem.

Ms. Brown is a seasoned Public Servant with extensive experience in the government administration sector. She is adept at administering non-profits and navigating social services. Ms. Brown champions adolescent development, crisis intervention, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Nicole is devoted to her community and has strong opinions regarding housing access, infrastructure, and climate resilience. In addition, Nicole is a passionate advocate for mental health resources aimed at preventing violence and promoting public safety, as well as harm reduction and reentry assistance. The support of community activists, city council members, and labor organizations such as LiUNA and AFSCME has been garnered by her platforms.

Nicole graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Communication and Social Work and a Master of Social Work.

