

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Washington State University Board of Regents

**From:** Dr. Erica Weintraub Austin, Director, and Professor  
Edward R. Morrow Center for Media and Health Promotion Research

2024 Committee Chair, Honorary Doctoral Degree Committee

**Date:** January 23, 2025

**RE:** Recommendations for Honorary Doctoral Degree

Members of the Honorary Doctoral Degree Committee met to review eleven nomination submissions for Honorary Doctoral Degrees. After careful deliberation, the committee was pleased to present two outstanding candidates to President Kirk Schulz and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee for recommendation to the Board of Regents.

With the unanimous approval of President Schulz and the entire Faculty Senate Steering Committee, it is my honor to present to the WSU Board of Regents for consideration as recipients of an Honorary Doctoral Degree:

- **Candidate A** has spent their career in Aerospace Engineering and space exploration. A true trailblazer from eastern Washington, this candidate overcame significant barriers to achieve their educational and professional goals. With a career highlighted by advanced degrees and significant career accomplishments, this nationally renowned individual is not only a revered leader in the science of space travel but continues to serve as a mentor and a true inspiration to aspiring young scientists, especially those who must overcome barriers to achieve their goals.
- **Candidate B** has made tremendous contributions to science, to the state of Washington and to the student success mission of Washington State University. Their contributions to the Washington State Academy of Sciences, as a member and an aerospace engineer and technical fellow, have been energetic and sustained, even gaining momentum post-retirement. This individual's passion for helping students has impacted tens of thousands of students to date, through their involvement in regional, state, and international science fairs.

The Honorary Doctoral Degree is an award of the highest esteem to be awarded to individuals who have made a profound and enduring contribution to their field of scholarship and improved quality of life to society at large. Recipients are individuals of great integrity whose contribution will enhance the intellectual climate of Washington State University.



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Honorary Doctoral Degree Committee

The selection committee has determined these individuals have made tremendous contributions of significant impact locally, nationally, and globally. Their lives' missions continue to inspire our students at Washington State University and exemplify WSU's mission and Strategic Plan as a Land Grant University.

I respectfully present the supporting materials for these two outstanding nominations for your consideration and conferring of Honorary Doctoral Degrees from Washington State University in 2025.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Erica Weintraub Austin

Attachments