

Office of the President
February 19, 2021

Members, Board of Trustees:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve awarding an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mrs. Deirdre Lyons and Mr. Carl F. Pollard, as approved and recommended by the University Faculty.

Background: Pursuant to the Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees, the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees recommended to the elected Faculty Senators that the specified honorary degrees be awarded to Deirdre Lyons and Carl F. Pollard. The elected Faculty Senators have approved the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the recipients are attached.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____

Deirdre Lyons
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Deirdre Lyons, co-founder of global animal health company Alltech, was born in Dublin, Ireland, graduating from University College Dublin in 1970. In 1977, Mrs. Lyons moved to Kentucky with her husband, Dr. Pearse Lyons, and their two small children, Aoife and Mark. Aoife held a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and worked at Alltech's European Headquarters in Dunboyne, Ireland. Mark has a Ph.D. in solid state fermentation and is president and CEO of Alltech, having served as executive vice president and head of Greater China since 2011.

Mrs. Lyons co-founded Alltech with her husband in 1980 to help farmers feed the world, raise healthy animals and protect the environment through natural, nutritional innovation. Today, Alltech is a \$2 billion company with more than 5,000 employees supporting its business presence in over 120 countries. Mrs. Lyons is Alltech's director of corporate image and design, which involves carefully architecting, designing and outfitting Alltech's facilities in nearly 100 countries to ensure a consistent brand image.

She has achieved national and international accolades on behalf of Kentucky through her work on the historic Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2010; various arts initiatives, including the annual Alltech Vocal Scholarship Competition and Alltech Celebration of Song; humanitarian endeavors as far away as Haiti and as close as local primary schools' science laboratories; and her service on numerous leadership boards in Kentucky, including the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation, the Kentucky Equine Humane Center, the University of Kentucky Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and the Lexington Convention Center.

Ardent supporters of tourism in the Bluegrass, Mrs. Lyons and her son Mark were recognized with VisitLEX's #SharetheLEX award in 2019 for their love and passion for Lexington and their tireless efforts to promote the region.

Carl F. Pollard
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Carl F. Pollard was born in Lancaster, Kentucky, and graduated from the University of Kentucky, as a first-generation college student, with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce in 1960. He began his career as a partner for the Louisville accounting firm Yeager, Ford & Warren, which is now owned by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

In 1968, he joined Extencicare and was instrumental in its development into Humana Inc., a Louisville-based Fortune 500 health care company. He held various senior positions within the company, including president and chief operating officer from 1991 to 1993, and was chairman and chief executive officer of the hospital division, which later became Columbia Healthcare Corporation, where he served as chairman of the board until his retirement in 1994.

Mr. Pollard is a life-long horse racing enthusiast and former chairman of Churchill Downs, Inc., a position he held from 2001 through 2011. He was the principal owner of noted Hermitage Farm, a thoroughbred breeding operation located in Goshen, Kentucky, from 1994 through 2010, and continues to be actively involved in the thoroughbred business through his company, CFP Thoroughbreds. Mr. Pollard is currently the president of the C.F. Pollard Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Pollard endowed the Carl F. Pollard Professorship of Health Economics in the UK Gatton College of Business and Economics and the Carl F. Pollard Scholarship Fund, which has awarded well over \$1 million in scholarships to benefit first-generation college students like himself. He recently expanded the fund to \$10 million to provide educational opportunities for even more students.

In recognition of his career achievements, Mr. Pollard was named to the University of Kentucky Alumni Association Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1995 and the UK Gatton College of Business and Economics Alumni Hall of Fame in 1994. He has served as a member of numerous UK boards including the Markey Cancer Foundation Board of Trustees, Development Council and Business Partnership Foundation. Mr. Pollard also was a director and member of the Executive Committee of National City Bank, Kentucky and served on the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Derby Museum.