

Office of the President
February 17, 2023

Members, Board of Trustees:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve awarding an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to W. Lawrence Patrick, 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 degree be awarded to W. Lawrence Patrick. The elected Faculty Senators have approved the recommendation.

Biographical sketch of the recipient is attached.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____

W. Lawrence Patrick

W. Lawrence Patrick is recognized for his monumental accomplishments in spearheading the developments of the radio and television industry in the United States and beyond during times of rapid change and volatile transformation. In addition to his many impeccable professional achievements, Dr. Patrick's contribution to the academic community and educational mission of broadcasting is equally impressive.

After completing a B.A. in telecommunications (the predecessor of the Media Arts and Studies program) at UK, Patrick went on to graduate with an M.S. from the University of Tennessee, a Ph.D. from Ohio State University and a J.D. from Georgetown University.

His distinguished professional career in broadcasting started in Lexington, as the news producer, director and producer at Lexington-based WKYT. Among his multiple roles in shaping the broadcasting industry, Patrick has been serving as Managing Partner of Patrick Communications, LLC, with offices in Wyoming and Maryland, since 1984.

In his numerous leadership roles, Patrick served as chairman of the board and lead independent director of ION Media Networks (2005-2008), chief operating officer of Gilmore Broadcasting of Kalamazoo, Michigan (1983-1986) and senior vice president of the National Association of Broadcasters in Washington, D.C. (1979-1983).

Besides publishing books and journal articles, Patrick's exemplary service to the educational, academic and social service mission of broadcasting media, ranges from the past president of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) to the past president of the National Association of Media Brokers (NAMB) and past chairman of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Educational Foundation. His contribution to the education of broadcasters was recognized in the Distinguished Education Service Award by BEA in 2005. He also served as chairman of the National Association of Broadcasters Political Action Committee (NABPAC) for six years and is a current NAB Radio board member.

Patrick is as an active supporter of the UK College of Communication and Information and its School of Journalism and Media, where he received the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2017. He is chair of the John Bayliss Foundation, which has given more than \$1.2 million in scholarships to hundreds of students pursuing careers in radio. His philanthropy has extended beyond his industry with the funding of schools and clinics in Africa and Native American communities, vice-chair of the Yellowstone Park Foundation and board member of the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School in Maine.

W. Lawrence Patrick is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Kentucky.