

Office of the President  
February 18, 2022

Members, Board of Trustees:

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve awarding an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mr. Kris W. Kimel and Mr. Terry Woodward, 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 Kris W. Kimel and Terry Woodward. The elected Faculty Senators have approved the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the recipients are attached.

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Action taken:  Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **Kris W. Kimel**

A graduate of the UK College of Social Work, Kris Kimel has spent most of his career working in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. Throughout every stage of his career, Kimel has exemplified an exceptional commitment to bettering the lives of those in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Early in his career, Kimel served as the executive assistant for the Kentucky Attorney General and chief administrative assistant for Lieutenant Governor Steve Beshear.

The accomplishments under Kris Kimel's leadership indicate the diversity and depth at which his work impacted the community. As the co-founder and executive director of the Kentucky Science and Technology Council from 1987-1990, and then president of the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation until 2018, Kimel and his team advanced the development of science and technology across Kentucky.

Under Kimel's leadership, the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation provided learning opportunities in classrooms and workshops, brought innovative changes to rural areas, and advanced STEM education to ensure that students in the Commonwealth thrive and reach their highest potential.

Later in his career, Kimel founded the Idea Festival and co-founded and chaired Space Tango, an annual celebration of innovative thinking and an opportunity to perform experiments in the International Space Station.

In 2019, Kimel founded Humanity in Deep Space, a program that fosters exploratory conversation as humankind looks to life's transition in space. This "out of this world idea" indicates a forward-thinking mentality, as conversations surround the possibilities and limitations of the future.

Kris Kimel's work is uniquely others-focused, evidenced by his unwavering devotion to philanthropy, human development, education and societal well-being. He has made education more accessible, provided opportunities for rural communities and has made considerable progress to better the Scientific and Technological education efforts within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Kris W. Kimel is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Kentucky.

## **Terry Woodward**

Terry Woodward graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Commerce, becoming the first person in his family to graduate from college. He believes that graduating from the University of Kentucky gave him the confidence to achieve things in life beyond his wildest dreams.

Shortly after college, Woodward joined his father in working for the family business, Wax Works.

Since 1968 Terry Woodward has served as CEO of the global home entertainment distributor Wax Works, Inc. located in Owensboro, Kentucky. Today it is the oldest continuous, family-owned entertainment company in the U.S.

Within a few years at Wax Works, Woodward had the vision to expand the company to new heights. He founded Disc Jockey in 1978 which boomed into a successful business venture. By 2000, there were 230 stores in 37 states.

Despite many personal challenges, Woodward reached extraordinary milestones, and to recognize his remarkable success as a visionary entrepreneur, he was inducted into the University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics Alumni Hall of Fame in 1999.

Woodward has a lifelong record of strengthening his community and the Commonwealth. He has intentionally kept his business based in Owensboro, creating a substantial economic impact through the scores of jobs it has created in his hometown over several decades.

His community impact extends to his philanthropic efforts to help students follow in his steps at his alma mater. His financial gifts for scholarships and funding for the expansion of the Gatton College of Business and Economics facility demonstrate his commitment to the development of education for students on campus.

Terry Woodward is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Kentucky.