

SECTION: 9

DATE:

November 27, 2007

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve Richard L. Baird, Global Managing Partner – People, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as Commencement Speaker at the Sunday, December 16, 2007 commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctorate of Public Service to Mr. Baird.

SUMMARY

Mr. Baird's biography follows on the next page

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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

University Executive Officer
Provost and Executive Vice President

Date

Richard L. Baird
Global Managing Partner - People
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Richard L. Baird currently serves as Global Managing Partner - People and is responsible for Human Resources (including international assignments) and Learning and Education for PwC's 150,000 partners and staff. He has been referenced in various publications (examples include the Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and Global HR News) for his work in talent management, specifically related to two PwC leadership development programs, Genesis Park and Ulysses (Genesis Park is a 5 month in-residence program which brings high potential employees from around the world into an intense multi-cultural environment of learning, teaming, and strategic research. Ulysses brings cross border teams of PwC partners together, furthering their skills as responsible leaders, which includes a two month field experience working on projects with local authorities in developing countries--such as HIV-Aids awareness strategies in Africa and rural electrification planning in northern Madagascar).

Mr. Baird serves on the Global PwC Management and Extended Leadership Team and has also served as a member of the firm's Editorial and Thought Leadership Council, Task Force on Risk Management, Global Network Investment Committee, and a variety of other firm initiatives over the years. Mr. Baird was Project Leader for the book "Building Public Trust, The Future of Corporate Reporting" which was published in 2002 and he has collaborated with the principal authors on several other books as well ("The ValueReporting Revolution" (2000), "Getting to Heaven—Six Steps to Organizational Excellence" (2002), "Blue Ocean Strategy" (2005), and "The Global Business Leader" (2007)).

Mr. Baird left PricewaterhouseCoopers in 1998 to become Corporate Vice President for LAI Worldwide and President of their subsidiary, LAIcompass.com, specializing in internet-based assessment and mid-level recruitment. His company was sold to TMP Worldwide in late 1999 and their on-line assessment became part of the internet service offering under Monster.com. In 2000, Mr. Baird was readmitted to the partnership of PwC.

Mr. Baird's prior positions within PwC include Global Operations Leader – Assurance, and a similar role for the United States and globally in Assurance and Business Advisory Services. He has served clients and worked in various management operations during his nearly 25 years with the firm. He lived in Ypsilanti from 1978 to 1985 and was a Manager with the Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Corporation (1978-79) and Director of Alumni Relations for EMU (1980-81).

Mr. Baird received his Bachelor of Arts from Albion College in Michigan, where he has been a trustee for 10 years (the last 5 years also serving as board Chairman). He is a life member of the Board of Trustees for United Methodist Homes and Services, an Assisted Living and eldercare facility in Chicago, and a past member of the AIESEC US Board of Directors. Currently he serves on the AIESEC Global Advisory Steering Committee (AIESEC is the world's largest collegiate student leadership development organization). He is also a member of the Dean's Advisory Council for INSEAD, a global executive program and MBA institution with campuses in Fountainebleau, France and Singapore. Mr. Baird has been recognized for various civic contributions and was named one of the Michigan Jaycees Five Outstanding Men of Michigan. Along with civic leader Nathalie Edmunds, Mr. Baird co-founded the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival and was very active in a broad range of Ypsilanti community activities through the Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees and EMU. Though he has not lived in Ypsilanti for some 20 years, he continues to support the community he still regards as 'home' and was the keynote speaker at EMU's Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2006.

Mr. Baird lives in Palatine, Illinois. He and his wife Linda have been married 22 years and have three children (Ben 21), Jessica (18) and Blythe (11).