



**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE RECOMMENDATION OF
CANDIDATES FOR HONORARY DEGREES/COMMENCEMENT
SPEAKERS**

WHEREAS, the policies of the Board of Trustees provide for the recommendation of candidates for honorary degrees/commencement speakers for the next academic year who are reviewed and recommended by the Senate Executive Committee, the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the President of the University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Youngstown State University does hereby authorize that the selection for commencement speakers in the 2024-2025 academic year be granted from the candidates listed in the roster attached hereto.

Potential Commencement Speakers pending Board Approval

Chris Allen

WCBA Alumni Service Award recipient. Allen is the North American Talent Acquisition Manager, Vallourec USA, the world leader in premium tubular solutions primarily serving the energy markets (oil and gas, powergen). He graduated from YSU with a bachelor's degree in Telecommunications Studies in 1992. Allen started his career with Vallourec Star in 2013 as HR staffing manager of the Youngstown Operations and was later promoted to the North American Talent Acquisition Manager to expand recruitment of external talent from Canada, the United States and Mexico. He is responsible for sourcing and recruiting of all external talent for interns as well as full-time employees. Allen has participated in many WCBA undergraduate student events serving as a mentor to business students. YSU students and graduates have been hired at Vallourec Star for both internships and full-time employment. Allen serves as a member of YSU's Pete's Pride and has assisted with enrollment, career development and community outreach efforts for the WCBA. Allen also serves as an executive board member for the American Red Cross, Lake to River Mahoning Valley Chapter.

Ashley Anderson

Ashley Anderson is a 2007 alumna with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, with a minor in Foreign Affairs. Her most recent position is Associate Communications Officer, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Her path to the UN included a position as a caseworker with Trumbull County Children's Services and volunteering with a nonprofit agency working with homeless children on the streets of India. Her master's thesis research at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California led to an internship with the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). She then became a consultant on the issues of migration, human trafficking and forced labor for the International Labour Organization, as well as other agencies in Geneva, Switzerland. In 2015, she left Geneva for Greece to help with the unfolding refugee crisis. Her experiences included participating in rescues of Syrian and Afghan refugees from boats in the Mediterranean Sea, to reuniting an Iraqi refugee family with their beloved pet "Kunkush", which made international news and turned into a children's book. She has worked in Ghana with the UN to aid refugees from the region. She was featured in the 2016 fall YSU magazine. She also was honored as part of the "Penguin Women on the Move" group of alumnae in 2018.

Bryan C. Brantley

A YSU alumnus with a BA in Political Science in 2001, Bryan Brantley is a partner at the law firm McGuire Woods in Pittsburgh, PA. He is a member of the firm's Board of Partners and the leader of the firm's Transportation Industry Group. He is a well-rounded litigator with national experience in a wide range of industries including transportation, retail, construction equipment, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals. Brantley has successfully resolved client's issues through dispositive motions, mediation, arbitration and favorable settlements. He currently serves as National Coordinating Counsel and manages a significant portfolio of litigation for a Fortune 50 transportation company as well as a major technology platform. Bryan serves as a member of the firm's Finance Committee and its Diversity and Inclusion Committee. In 2022, *The Legal*

Intelligencer, an American Lawyer Media publication, honored Brantley as a Professional Excellence Award winner. In 2014, he was elected as a fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, an organization dedicated to identifying strong, diverse talent in the legal profession and providing them with leadership opportunities. He is also a recipient of the Distinguished Student Award, Katie Elizabeth Westbrook Award and CALI Excellence Award for the Future in Trial Advocacy. While earning his law degree, he was honored as a member of the Order of the Barristers.

Joe Mosca

Dr. Joseph Mosca worked at YSU from 1989 to 2019 as an assistant professor, associate professor, assistant to the dean, chair, associate dean, dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, and finally, interim provost and vice president of academic affairs. Following his retirement from YSU, Mosca served as interim executive director of Mahoning County Children Services. Mosca previously served on the board, including roles as board secretary and chairman. Mosca's awards include the Edna K. McDonald Cultural Awareness Award, the Watson Merit Award, the Distinguished Professorship, the Distinguished Service Award, and the 2023 Heritage Award, YSU's most prestigious award.

3356-10-05 Honorary degrees and commencement speakers.

Responsible Division/Office: Academic Affairs
Responsible Officer: Provost and VP for Academic Affairs
Revision History: October 1997; July 2009; June 2011;
June 2013; December 2015; December 2020;
March 2021
Board Committee: Academic Excellence and Student Success
Effective Date: March 4, 2021
Next Review: 2026

- (A) Policy statement. The board of trustees shall review and authorize the list from which commencement speakers and honorary degree candidates will be recommended by the academic events committee of the academic senate to the president. The board of trustees shall grant honorary degrees in recognition of a significant impact on the university, on the community, state or nation, or on society. Such degrees will be conferred at commencements, special convocations, and other events. The honorary degree shall be clearly designated on the diploma as “Honorary degree of” followed by the name of the degree.
- (B) The following honorary degrees are those usually awarded at Youngstown state university:
- (1) Bus. D. (doctor of business), customarily awarded to a person making a unique contribution in the business community.
 - (2) LL.D. (doctor of laws), customarily awarded to a person distinguished in general service to the state, to learning and to mankind.
 - (3) LH.D. (doctor of humane letters), customarily awarded to a person distinguished in the humanities.
 - (4) Sc.D. (doctor of science), customarily awarded to a person distinguished in the sciences.
 - (5) Lett.D. (doctor of letters), customarily awarded to an acknowledged scholar in a particular discipline.

- (6) Mus.D. (doctor of music), customarily awarded to a distinguished performer or composer.

(C) Procedures for selecting and approving candidates.

- (1) Criteria for nomination of commencement speakers and honorary degree candidates are determined by the provost/vice president for academic affairs, subject to board of trustees' approval.
- (2) Faculty, staff, board of trustees members and/or anyone associated with the university may submit nominations for commencement speakers and/or honorary degree candidates to the academic events committee of the academic senate or directly to the provost/vice president for academic affairs.
- (3) Per the academic senate bylaws, the academic events committee of the academic senate "shall be responsible for making recommendations concerning policy governing academic events such as graduation ceremonies, honors convocations, inaugural ceremonies, and recommend candidates for honorary degrees and commencement speakers to the university's president."
- (4) The academic events committee will review the credentials of all the nominated candidates and will submit a list of no less than fifteen and no more than twenty recommended candidates for approval by the board of trustees during its regular June meeting. The list may be amended and reapproved by the board at any time throughout the year.

(D) Selection of the commencement speaker.

- (1) The provost, in consultation with the president, shall select a commencement speaker from the board-approved list.
- (2) The president will inform the board of the selection of the commencement speaker no later than the board meeting preceding the commencement ceremony.

(E) Selection of the honorary degree recipient.

- (1) Only the board of trustees is authorized to approve the awarding of an honorary degree.
- (2) The provost, in consultation with the president, shall recommend candidates for an honorary degree from the approved list for recognition at an appropriate event.
- (3) The board shall approve the awarding of the degree no later than the board meeting preceding the event at which the honorary degree is to be conferred.