



January 16, 2020

Dr. Ben Givens, Secretary
University Senate
119 Independence Hall
1923 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Dr. Givens,

The Honorary Degrees Committee of the University Senate has carefully reviewed the dossier of Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan for an honorary degree from The Ohio State University. Professor Caroline Wagner brought forward the nomination.

Kathryn D. Sullivan is an American geologist who began her career as an oceanographer. In the late 1970s, Dr. Sullivan applied to NASA to become an astronaut. She served on the crew of three space shuttle missions, and was the first American woman to walk in space. After leaving NASA, Dr. Sullivan served as President and Chief Executive Officer of COSI Columbus, an interactive science center in Columbus, Ohio. Under her leadership, COSI strengthened its impact on science teaching in the classroom and its national reputation as an innovator of hands-on, inquiry-based science learning resources. Following this service, Dr. Sullivan served at The Ohio State as the inaugural director of the Battelle Center for Mathematics and Science Education Policy, housed within the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. As Center Director, Dr. Sullivan was noted for acquiring grant funds to champion the role of girls and women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics to great effect for the State of Ohio. In 2004, President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Sullivan to serve on the US Government's National Science Board, where she served the nation with distinction by supporting science and technology investments.

Dr. Sullivan was Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate. Dr. Sullivan held this executive position from 2011 until 2017. At NOAA, Dr. Sullivan's tenure was noted for her leadership of infusing policy process with scientific rigor, of enhancing agency outreach to industry, academia, and to the public (including developing an award-winning website), and for coordinating policy actions across many agencies of government. Dr. Sullivan was a tireless advocate for tracking and monitoring changes to the climate and the oceans, ensuring effective stewardship of natural resources. Dr. Sullivan updated and expanded weather tracking for public good. In particular, she effectively coordinated with NASA to target and use satellites and GPS data to serve multiple government agencies in a way that would enhance service and save money. Following completion of her service at NOAA, Dr. Sullivan was designated as the 2017 Charles A. Lindbergh Chair of Aerospace History at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum and she has also served as a Senior Fellow at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies.

By an overwhelming vote, the Committee recommends that Dr. Sullivan's dossier be forwarded to the University Senate for their consideration, and recommends the title of Doctorate of Public Service *honoris causa*.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Crocker
Ohio Eminent Scholar in Social Psychology
Professor of Psychology
Chair, Senate Honorary Degrees Committee