

University Board of Regents. The policy is included in the *Board Policy Manual* and any changes to existing policy will be made to reflect the provisions contained therein. The membership of the Honorary Doctorate Degree Committee includes:

- 1) Two members of the Board of Regents appointed by the Chairman of the Board
- 2) One senior faculty member appointed by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- 3) The President or his/her designee

In 2024, Chair Leon Owens, Vice Chair Robbie Fitch and Regent Melony Shemberger were named to serve as the representatives of the Board of Regents on the Honorary Doctorate Committee. Regent Shemberger also represents a senior faculty member in her capacity as Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications. President Bob Jackson is a member of the Committee and Board Secretary Jill Hunt serves as an Ad Hoc member.

Regent Shemberger reported that the Honorary Doctorate Degree Committee met on July 19, 2024, and unanimously recommends that Murray State University officially bestow an Honorary Doctorate upon Dr. Aaron Thompson, President of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. The Committee was unanimous in determining that Dr. Thompson meets the established criteria for receipt of an Honorary Doctorate from Murray State University and his service is certainly worthy of honor and his national reputation is notable.

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the Honorary Doctorate Degree Committee, approve the awarding of a Murray State University Honorary Doctor of Education to Dr. Aaron Thompson during the December 2024 Commencement ceremony. Regent Wilson seconded and discussion followed.

Regent Shemberger indicated she has had the honor of knowing Dr. Thompson for approximately three years and was fortunate to be a part of the Faculty Advisory Network that he formed within the CPE. She learned a great deal from Dr. Thompson who is a true champion for higher education in Kentucky. He has helped all to reconceptualize what an academic achievement can be – whether by way of a degree or other credential. When the Honorary Doctorate Committee met in July, all talked highly of Dr. Thompson. His resume was provided in the eBoard book for Regents. For the record, the resume is about 40 pages but captures what his essence has been in Kentucky. Dr. Thompson is a Kentucky native, having earned degrees in the state, and he has already received Honorary Doctorates from four other schools in the Commonwealth.

President Jackson reported he has worked with Dr. Thompson for many, many years. They came into their respective positions at about the same time during the summer of 2018. President Jackson chaired the Council of Presidents for approximately five years with Dr. Thompson which provided an opportunity for them to work together very closely. He is surprised Dr.

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