



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE TO KIRK DAVIS

RESOLUTION 26-XX

WHEREAS, in recognition of outstanding individual achievement, service, and contributions to the University and the community, the University may award the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters; and

WHEREAS, Kirk Davis began his higher education journey at Wright State University as a Musical Theatre student, an experience he has described as a pivotal moment that broadened his vision and prepared him for future leadership; and

WHEREAS, although family circumstances required him to leave, he credits Wright State with inspiring his ultimate trajectory toward and success in national leadership in media and business; and

WHEREAS, through resilience and determination, Mr. Davis rose from an entry-level position at a small newspaper in Lancaster, Ohio, to become one of the youngest media executives in the country by age 23, setting the stage for a distinguished four-decade career; and

WHEREAS, as CEO of GateHouse Media and later Harte Hanks, Mr. Davis led billion-dollar companies, driving digital transformation, expanding local journalism, and creating long-term value for investors, communities, and employees alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis has been a staunch advocate for the preservation of local journalism in American communities, serving on the boards of the Associated Press, the American Press Institute, and the New England Newspaper Association, while ensuring that his organizations consistently received national recognition for editorial quality and community service; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Kirk Davis has embodied leadership marked by humility, authenticity, and vision, empowering teams, mentoring future leaders, and demonstrating an unwavering commitment to education and community advancement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Board finds that Kirk Davis has been duly nominated for the Doctor of Humane Letters, the President concurs in the nomination, and Kirk Davis is otherwise eligible and worthy of the honor; and be it further

RESOLVED, in recognition of outstanding individual achievement, service, and contributions, the Board authorizes and directs the President to confer the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters upon Kirk Davis at the 2025 Fall Semester Commencement Exercises.