Submitted by: Chacona W. Johnson, Vice President

**Development and Alumni Affairs** 

President, Wayne State University Foundation

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEBBIE DINGELL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP (FUND FUNCTIONING AS AN ENDOWMENT)

#### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish the Debbie Dingell Endowed Scholarship (Fund Functioning as an Endowment).

This scholarship fund is established to recognize scholastic potential, to encourage continued progress, and to provide assistance to students in financing their education at Wayne State University.

## **Background**

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell is ardent supporter of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) studies. Historically, women have been underrepresented in STEM fields. Stereotypes, gender bias and the climate of academic departments and workplaces continue to block woman's participation and progress. These barriers and underrepresentation has significant implications for woman's financial security, economic growth, and global innovation.

Over the past 10 years, growth in STEM jobs was three times as fast as growth in non-STEM jobs. STEM occupations are projected to grow by 17 percent through 2018, compared to 9.8 percent growth for non-STEM occupations. STEM workers command higher wages, earning 26 percent more than their non-STEM counterparts. However, woman's share of the STEM workforce is only 24 percent, in contrast to their more balanced share among the college educated workforce (49%). Indisputably, the direct correlation is the fact that woman hold a disproportionately low share of STEM undergraduate degrees.

Wayne State University is working diligently to mitigate the disparity between women and men in STEM studies. In 2002, the university started the GO-GIRL program which is short for Gaining Options: Girls Investigate Real Life. The GO-GIRL program gives girls handson experience with science, technology, engineering and math careers and sparks their college ambitions.

Through this enrichment program, students work in research teams with university mentors. They gain skills in data analysis and scientific methods, tour real labs, meet researchers and join in career discussions.

The purpose of this scholarship is to further the opportunities made possible by GO-GIRL by offering scholarships to the students who have gone through the GO-GIRL program and wish to continue their STEM studies at Wayne State University.

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This endowment is established with a transfer of \$25,000 from the President's Enhancement Fund.

Endowment Amount \$25,000.00

Submitted by: Chacona W. Johnson, Vice President

**Development and Alumni Affairs** 

President, Wayne State University Foundation

# ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENDOWMENT IN HONOR OF EUGENE DRIKER (FUND FUNCTIONING AS AN ENDOWMENT)

#### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish the Endowment in Honor of Eugene Driker (Fund Functioning as an Endowment).

The purpose of the Endowment in Honor of Eugene Driker (Fund Functioning as an Endowment) is to recognize scholastic achievement, to encourage continued progress, and to provide assistance to students in financing their education at the Wayne State University Law School.

## **Background**

Born and raised in Detroit, Eugene Driker attended Detroit Public Schools, and Wayne State University where he earned his bachelor's in mathematics in 1959. Eugene continued at Wayne State as a law student and was editor-in-chief of the Wayne Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif. He graduated first in his class with a juris doctor in 1961, and was the first Wayne State graduate selected for the Attorney General's Program for Honor Law Graduates. He earned a LL.M. in 1962 from the George Washington University Law School and received an honorary doctor of laws in 2001 from Wayne State.

A member of the State Bar of Michigan since 1962, he was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Sixth Circuits, and various U.S. district courts. He was a trial attorney for the Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., from 1961-64, and a part-time lecturer in Wayne State's Law School from 1964-67. He was admitted to the New York State Bar in 2012, and selected to serve as a court appointed mediator for the City of Detroit's bankruptcy.

Eugene Driker is a founding member in the law firm of Barris, Sott, Denn and Driker PLLC, focusing primarily on business law and litigation, governance of profit and nonprofit organizations, and alternative dispute resolution. He has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America, described in Super Lawyers as Michigan's top litigator and in Chambers USA Guide as Michigan's preeminent business litigator. He also was named by Lawdragon magazine as one of the top 500 lawyers in America.

Eugene has won several major awards, including the Dennis W. Archer Public Service Award and the Wade Hampton McCree Award for the Advancement of Social Justice. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial

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Lawyers. He is a life member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference, a member of the American Law Institute, and has chaired several State Bar of Michigan committees. He has also served on the boards of many community organizations.

As Wayne State's ambassador and most ardent supporter, Eugene has served the university in several capacities, giving both financially and of his time and talents. He chaired the law school's \$16 million campaign from 1998-2001 to enhance the school's facilities and build the endowment. He served on the campaign steering committee for Wayne First: The Campaign for Wayne State University which concluded in December 2008 after the university had exceeded its fund raising goal by nearly \$400 million in cash and in-kind gifts. Mr. Driker also serves as the Chair of the Wayne State University Foundation.

On December 18, 2002, Eugene Driker was appointed to the Wayne State University Board of Governors to complete a term through December 31, 2006. In November 2006, he was elected to his first full term of office January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2014. He served as the chair of the Board of Governors in 2007 and 2008.

Now, it is the intention of Wayne State University's President, Dr. M. Roy Wilson, to establish the Endowment in Honor of Eugene Driker (Fund Functioning as an Endowment) to further support the Eugene Driker Endowed Scholarship in the Law School.

This endowment is established with a transfer of \$25,000 from the President's Enhancement Fund, in honor of Eugene Driker's distinguished service as a member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors.

Endowment Amount \$25,000.00