

Submitted by: President M. Roy Wilson

Eugene Driker Award for Distinguished Service

Recommendation

President M. Roy Wilson recommends the establishment of the Eugene Driker Award for Distinguished Service, in recognition of the tremendous contributions of Eugene Driker to Wayne State University, and be awarded to individuals who have performed extraordinary service on behalf of both the university and the community.

Background

As a two-time Wayne State alumnus, a former long-serving member of the Board of Governors, Chair of the Wayne State University Foundation Board, and prominent donor and a tireless ambassador for Wayne State, Eugene Driker has had an enormous and far-reaching positive impact on our university. That impact is further advanced when considering the breadth of his considerable contributions, -- often done quietly and humbly -- to help the City of Detroit and its region through difficult challenges to regain momentum as a great American city.

To recognize in perpetuity Eugene's positive impact to both the university and city, and to inspire others to acts of generosity and service, Wayne State will establish the Eugene Driker Award for Distinguished Service from Wayne State University. This award will be recommended by the President of Wayne State to recognize individuals who have performed extraordinary service on behalf of both the university and community, and whose selfless approach to service leaves a lasting impact. The timing of the award will be dependent on the emergence of a potential awardee, rather than on a cadenced, calendar basis. This is a special award, granted to only a few, at the discretion of the President with concurrence from the Board of Governors

It is recommended that the award be established and publicly announced on December 2, 2022, in tribute to all he has done for Wayne State University, and that Eugene Driker be honored as the first recipient of this award, to be received posthumously, at the Board meeting where the award is approved. This award provides the opportunity for our community to understand the extraordinary impact of Eugene's service to the University.

Communication announcing the establishment of the award and its intent will directly follow.