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Honorary Degree Award Citation for Mark Burstein

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Mark Burstein

MARK BURSTEIN, as President of Lawrence University, you led this institution to unprecedented levels of achievement and accomplishment. A graduate of Vassar College, you earned a Masters of Business Administration in Finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. During your time at Wharton, you worked at the consulting firm Center for Applied Research in their strategy and organizational development practices. From Wharton you moved into a position as an associate in the Public Finance Division of Bear Stearns.

You left Bear Stearns to become Director of Economic Development for the New York City Department of Sanitation, launching the city's recycling program. This commitment to enhancing human welfare deepened the following year, when you became Columbia University's first Vice President of Student Services. Later, as Columbia's Vice President for Facilities Management, you developed the plan for the university's Manhattanville expansion. From Columbia you moved to Princeton University, where, as Executive Vice President, you created an award-winning campus master plan, drafted a sustainability plan integrating teaching, research, and administrative initiatives, and taught in the Freshman Seminar program.

You brought all of this experience, vision, and passion for the transformative power of education to Lawrence when you assumed the presidency in 2013. Committed to broadening student access to Lawrence's unique intellectual and artistic strengths, you launched the Full Speed to Full Need campaign just one year into your appointment. Begun with a \$30 million donor commitment and matching challenge, Full Speed to Full Need blossomed into one of the major priorities of *Be the Light!*, the most ambitious comprehensive campaign in the university's history. Closing at the end of 2020 with more than \$232 million raised, *Be the Light!* helped to lift Lawrence's endowment above the \$450 million mark—an extraordinary 100% increase in endowment value over the course of your presidency.

Improvements to the academic program during your tenure include the development of more than seven new majors or minors, introducing important developing fields such as Global Studies and Cognitive Neuroscience into Lawrence's curriculum. The new Bachelor of Musical Arts degree provides expanded options for Conservatory students. And the creation of multiple new endowed professorships recognizes faculty achievement in fields as various as History, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and East Asian Studies.

You have attentively stewarded our beautiful campus, accomplishing major improvements and upgrades to the Banta Bowl, six residence halls, Warch Campus Center and the Memorial Chapel. The university's commitment to sustainability deepened considerably during your tenure, with an agreement with the Door County Land Trust protecting more than 300 acres at Björklunden from future development being a particular achievement.

Under your thoughtful and compassionate guidance, Lawrence has become a more diverse and inclusive university, seeing increases in traditionally under-represented populations in every constituency of our community, including the Board of Trustees. And student life and support has been immeasurably enriched through services offered by the new Center for Academic Success and the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life.

By every conceivable measure, you have made Lawrence University a stronger, better place. Mark Burstein, for these and so many more of your innumerable contributions to the welfare of Lawrence University, which you have served so well and with such abiding devotion and care, I now confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, and admit you to its rights, privileges, and obligations.

Appleton, Wisconsin
June, 2021