

PROPOSAL: Honorary Degree Recommendation for David A. Dombrowski

Background

David A. Dombrowski, a 1979 graduate of Western Michigan University, received nomination for consideration for an honorary degree. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting and is an alumnus of the Lee Honors College. While at Western, he completed an honors thesis examining the role of the General Manager in Major League Baseball. That academic work proved to be a fitting pre-cursor to a career that would establish him as one of the most accomplished executives in professional sports.

For nearly five decades, Dombrowski has distinguished himself through exceptional leadership and sustained success in Major League Baseball. He has held senior executive positions with the Montreal Expos, Florida Marlins, Detroit Tigers, Boston Red Sox, and Philadelphia Phillies. He is the only executive in Major League Baseball history to lead four different franchises to the World Series, and his teams have captured five league championships and two World Series titles. Through strategic vision, organizational leadership, and an ability to develop talent, he has consistently elevated the institutions he has served.

Among his many accomplishments, Dombrowski transformed the Detroit Tigers from a franchise emerging from a 119-loss season into a perennial contender, reaching the World Series twice during his tenure. His leadership contributed not only to the success of the organization but also to renewed pride and enthusiasm throughout the city of Detroit and the state of Michigan.

Throughout his career, Dombrowski has proudly represented Western Michigan University and credited the University for helping prepare him for leadership and success. His accomplishments, commitment to excellence, and distinguished service have brought national recognition to his alma mater and serve as an inspiration to generations of Broncos.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve awarding David A. Dombrowski the Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LL.D.) for his extraordinary professional achievements, distinguished leadership, and the honor and distinction he has brought to Western Michigan University.