

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**UDC Resolution 2017-\_\_\_\_\_**

**SUBJECT: Conferral of Honorary Degree upon Dorie Ann Ladner, Civil Rights Activist**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to D.C. Code §38-1202.06(3), the Board of Trustees has authority to award degrees and to establish policy with respect to the award of degrees; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 8B DCMR §315.2, the President, upon consultation with the Faculty Senate, has recommended that Dorie Ann Ladner be awarded an honorary degree for her significant accomplishments over 50 years as an advocate for social justice and equality; for her contributions on the local, state, and national levels of Civil Rights activism, including registering disenfranchised Black voters, integrating segregated facilities, co-founding the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), which was an amalgamation of local NAACP, CORE, SNCC, and SCLC organizations in Clarksdale, Mississippi; for her leadership as well as participant roles in some of the seminal Civil Rights demonstrations during the 1960s, including the March on Washington in 1963, the Selma to Montgomery March of 1965 and the Poor People’s March in 1968; and for her continued commitment to improving the lives and conditions of her fellow citizens through 30 years as a social worker in Washington, DC, and on-going activism and advocacy for civil rights and peace; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 8B DCMR §315.3, the Board of Trustees must approve the recommendation of Dorie Ann Ladner by an affirmative vote of three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the members present at the meeting of the Board following the meeting at which the recommendation was made;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia hereby approves the recommendation of the awarding of the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, with all the honors, privileges, and duties pertaining thereto.

Submitted by the Academic & Student Affairs  
Committee:

February 2, 2017

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

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Dr. Elaine A. Crider  
Chairperson of the Board

February 22, 2017

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**TO:** The Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Managing Director of Finance *David L. Franklin*  
**DATE:** January 27, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Honorary Degree upon Dorie Ann Ladner

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**Conclusion**

It is concluded that there is no fiscal impact associated with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) awarding an honorary degree upon Dorie Ann Ladner.

**Background**

The President, upon consultation with the Faculty Senate, has recommended that Dorie Ann Ladner be awarded an honorary degree for her significant accomplishments over 50 years as an advocate for social justice and equality. She is being cited for her contributions on the local, state, and national levels of Civil Rights activism, including registering disenfranchised Black voters, integrating segregated facilities, co-founding the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), which was an amalgamation of local NAACP, CORE, SNCC, and SCLC organizations in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Ms. Ladner is also recognized for her leadership and participant roles in some of the most important Civil Rights demonstrations during the 1960s, including the March on Washington in 1963, the Selma to Montgomery March of 1965 and the Poor People's March in 1968, and for her continued commitment to improving the lives and conditions of her fellow citizens through 30 years as a social worker in Washington, DC.

**Financial Impact**

Based on the information provided, we do not anticipate any fiscal impact.

Proposed Recipient of Honorary Degree for  
UDC's Spring Commencement, May 13, 2017

**DORIE ANN LADNER**  
**Civil Rights Activist**  
**Washington, DC**

Ms. Ladner is being recognized for her significant accomplishments over 50 years as an advocate for social justice and equality; for her contributions on the local, state, and national levels of Civil Rights activism, including registering disenfranchised Black voters, integrating segregated facilities, co-founding the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), which was an amalgamation of local NAACP, CORE, SNCC, and SCLC organizations in Clarksdale, Mississippi; for her leadership as well as participant roles in some of the seminal Civil Rights demonstrations during the 1960s, including the March on Washington in 1963, the Selma to Montgomery March of 1965 and the Poor People's March in 1968; and for her continued commitment to improving the lives and conditions of her fellow citizens through 30 years as a social worker in Washington, DC, and on-going activism and advocacy for civil rights and peace. Ms. Ladner's life-long commitment to social justice and equity, along with her dedication to the Washington, DC, community serve as an outstanding example and source of inspiration for the University's diverse students. For representing UDC's values so well, we are proud to honor her achievements.

**Dorie Ann Ladner**, a civil rights activist, was born on June 28, 1942, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. As an adolescent, she became involved in the NAACP Youth Chapter where Clyde Kennard served as advisor. Ladner got involved in the Civil Rights Movement and wanted to be an activist after hearing about the murder of Emmitt Till. After graduating from Earl Travillion High School as salutatorian—and alongside her sister, Joyce Ladner—she went on to enroll at Jackson State University. Dedicated to the fight for civil rights, during their freshmen year she and her sister attended state NAACP meetings with Medgar Evers and Eileen Beard. That same year, Ladner was expelled from Jackson State for participating in a protest against the jailing of nine students from Tougaloo College.

In 1961, Ladner enrolled at Tougaloo College where she became engaged with the Freedom Riders. During the early 1960s, racial hostilities in the South caused Ladner to drop out of school three times to join the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In 1962, she was arrested along with Charles Bracey, a Tougaloo College student, for attempting to integrate the Woolworth's lunch counter. She joined with SNCC Project Director Robert Moses and others from SNCC and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) to register disenfranchised black voters and integrate public accommodations. Ladner's civil rights work was exemplified when she became one of the founding members of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) in Clarksdale, Mississippi, which included: NAACP, CORE, SNCC, and SCLC.

Then, in 1964, Ladner became a key organizer in the Freedom Summer Project sponsored by the COFO. Throughout her years of working with SNCC, she served on the front line of the Civil Rights Movement in various capacities. She participated in every civil rights march from 1963 to 1968 including the March on Washington in 1963, the Selma to Montgomery March of 1965 and the Poor People's March in 1968. She was the SNCC project director in Natchez, Mississippi, from 1964 to 1966, and lectured at universities, churches, and other institutions to raise money for the organization. In addition, Ladner was a supporter of the Anti-Vietnam War Movement and worked in the presidential campaigns of Eugene McCarthy and George McGovern. She went on to serve as a community organizer for the Anti-Poverty Program in St. Louis, Missouri, and was an advocate for civil rights in housing and employment. Ladner has also worked for the Martin Luther King Library Documentation Center to help collect the history of people who were participants in the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1973, Dorie Ladner earned her B.A. degree from Tougaloo College. In 1974, she moved to Washington, D.C., and enrolled at the Howard University School of Social Work where she earned her MSW degree in 1975. Ladner has served as a clinical social worker in both the Washington, D.C. General Emergency Room and Psychiatry Department for 30 years. Since her retirement, she has continued her work as a social activist by participating in genealogical research, public speaking, anti-war activities (marches against the war in Iraq), and as a DC community activist.

**UDC VALUES**

*Learning, discovery, and engagement \* Academic excellence \* High expectations \* Student success  
Innovation \* Cross-cultural and international perspectives \* Technological competencies  
Collaboration among our internal and external partners \* Public service*