

Board of Trustees
Washtenaw Community College

TAB E

ACTION

4800 E. Huron River Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-4800

Subject
2019 Honorary Associate Degree

Date
April 23, 2019

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees award the Honorary Associate Degree to ***Dr. Karl Covert.*** for his extraordinary support of Washtenaw Community College and its students and for leading a life of service that has benefited our entire community.

Prepared by: Dr. Kimberly Hurns

Title: Vice President for Instruction

Recommended by: *Rose B. Bellanca, Ed.D.*

Rose B. Bellanca, President

**DR. KARL COVERT
DEAN/SUPERINTENDENT
WASHTENAW TECHNICAL MIDDLE COLLEGE**

Dr. Karl Covert is the Dean/Superintendent of Washtenaw Technical Middle School. In this role, he leads and guides the delivery of a progressive, student-centered academic approach to education that emphasizes rigor, relevance, and relationships. WTMC uses a skill-based educational program that challenges each student to: (1) transition from high school level course work to full-time college level course work, (2) complete a set of core 100-level academic courses with a grade of C or better and (3) complete either a technical certificate or associate degree at Washtenaw Community College. WTMC faculty and staff are dedicated to helping students create a program of study that is relevant to their individual interests and meaningful to their ultimate goals.

About WTMC students:

- On average WTMC students earn a 3.4 grade point average in their college courses
- Last year WTMC students completed over 21,000 college credits
- The majority (75 - 80%) of WTMC graduates complete an associate degree with their high school diplomas
- WTMC students represent 2 % of the total WCC student population, but they complete 10 % of all the degrees conferred at WCC
- In addition, 19% WTMC graduates plan to complete or earn more than one associate degree
- 85% of WTMC graduates plan to enroll in a 4-year college or university
- The majority of WTMC student identify as first generation college students
- 34% qualify for free and reduced lunch

Awards and Recognition for WTMC:

- Identified last year by the state of Michigan as one of the top ten schools in preparing students for college based on their SAT scores.
- Recognized by Newsweek as the seventh-best high school in the U.S.
- Awarded the *Governor's Summit Award* for educational excellence in innovation and collaboration
- Recognized by the Michigan Department of Education as a Reward School and Beating the Odds School
- Named the *Art School of the Year* by U of M's Music Society
- Chosen by the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) as one of the top 25 high schools in the country
- Selected by the United States Department of Education as one of four schools in the nation embracing a new educational vision for the 21st century
- Received the inaugural Michigan Governor's Award for Excellence in Educational Practices

Covert became the Dean/Superintendent of Washtenaw Technical Middle College in 2009 and is a lecturer at the University of Michigan's Graduate School of Educational Leadership and Policy. Under his leadership, WTMC's enrollment has increased from 310 students in 2009 to 750 students this academic year and the school has a 97-percent success rate.

Covert holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Cambridge in Cambridge England and has worked in education for the past 32 years as a teacher, counselor and administrator. Dr. Covert studied and held positions in Belgium, Germany, Delaware, England, Maine and Michigan. He has spoken and written on educational change, student voice and instructional initiatives.