

THEODORE COOPER

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for the honorary degree, Doctor of Science, Theodore Cooper, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of The Upjohn Company. Dr. Cooper has achieved distinction as a physician, research scientist, public servant, corporate executive, and humanitarian.

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, Dr. Cooper received his Bachelor of Science degree from Georgetown University and his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from St. Louis University. He joined the faculty of St. Louis University School of Medicine where he became Professor of Surgery and Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research. Subsequently, Dr. Cooper was named Director of the National Heart and Lung Institute at the National Institute of Health, followed by his appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Upon completion of his service in the federal government, Dr. Cooper was chosen to become Dean of the Cornell University Medical College and, then, an officer of The Upjohn Company. Through his experience in formulating and directing governmental, academic and corporate policies, he has gained the vision which is so essential to the creation of a climate of cooperation between such diverse entities. His efforts to promote these joint enterprises have led to the betterment of the human condition both at home and abroad.

Dr. Cooper's acute recognition of the complex relationships between a community's educational programs, the need for an attractive and vital city center, access to good health care and a healthy corporate economy have led him to develop, lead and support many bold and imaginative initiatives for the improvement of our community.

In the area of education, Dr. Cooper's efforts and support were instrumental in the initiation and development of the highly successful Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center, which provides exciting innovations in science education for talented students and has become nationally recognized as a model for such programs. In an effort to attack one of our community's most important problems, he has been instrumental in initiating the Kalamazoo Area Academic Achievement Program, designed to improve the educational success of students traditionally regarded as "high risk" students.

In addition, Dr. Cooper understands that a healthy, attractive, safe community with a flourishing cultural center is vital to present and prospective employees and employers and that it provides a base support for community needs. This has led to his initiative in the purchase and refurbishing of the Kalamazoo Center and his strong support of other efforts to revitalize the Kalamazoo downtown area.

A deep concern for the provision of an adequate, cost-efficient health care system for our nation and our community has resulted in Dr. Cooper's service on several national commissions and his efforts locally to promote cooperation between our two hospitals. On a broader level, his concern for the health for our global society has led him to initiate a program to provide medical supplies and technical assistance to the residents of the Soviet Union who were victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. For these efforts he was recently named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the National Organization for Rare Disorders. Recently he was honored by the Boy Scouts of America as recipient of their Distinguished Citizen Award.

In recognition of his exemplary career of service to his community and the world, I am pleased to present, on behalf of the faculty of Kalamazoo College, Theodore Cooper for the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.