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Wigbert Holle

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree Dr. WIGBERT HOLLE of the University of Bonn, West Germany: educator, academic administrator, innovator in international educational affairs, a long-time friend and widely known and respected associate of Kalamazoo College.

After studies in German, English, and French at universities in Dortmund, Bonn, Munich, and Königsberg in Germany and after sojourns in Oxford as the first postwar German student and in Paris shortly thereafter, Dr. Holle completed his Dr. phil. degree at the University of Bonn with a dissertation on Chaucer's ballads.

With his early interest in international education sharpened by his stays in England and France, Dr. Holle began to play an active role on both the local and national levels in re-establishing contacts abroad and opening up exchanges for German students and institutions. After further experience as a staff member of the German Academic Exchange Service and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Dr. Holle was appointed director of the office at the University of Bonn charged with the responsibility for international contacts, a position he has held now for more than twenty-five years.

Under Dr. Holle's leadership the Akademisches Auslandsamt serves the needs of foreign students, organizes preparatory and special courses in German, sponsors a well-known summer school for foreign participants, initiates international scholarly seminars and exchanges, and establishes and maintains numerous contacts with foreign universities, including many in this country. It was during his early tenure in this office that Dr. Holle was approached by Dr. Richard U. Light and Dr. Laurence Barrett to establish a Kalamazoo Foreign Study Program in Bonn, where more than three hundred Kalamazoo students have studied.

Because Kalamazoo College recognizes the world as its campus and because we are recognizing here today representatives of that greater campus, it is appropriate that we honor one who is a vigorous and knowledgeable advocate of international education at home and abroad, who is a representative of the University of Bonn with which we this year commemorate our association of twenty years, and who is our esteemed colleague and friend.

I recommend, therefore, on behalf of the faculty of Kalamazoo College, that upon WIGBERT HOLLE be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters.