

William A. Sederburg

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree, WILLIAM A. SEDERBURG: a three-term member of our Michigan State Senate; former member of the Michigan State Board of Education; the Senate's recognized leader in the area of higher education; a long-time friend and public supporter of private higher education; and a two-year colleague in Kalamazoo College's Department of Political Science.

A graduate of Mankato State University in Minnesota, he received his masters and doctorate degrees in political science from Michigan State University, completing his dissertation on the subject of Reforming the Financing of Public Education in Michigan. In the years that followed immediately, he held positions with the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University; he served as Educational Specialist and as Executive Director of the State House Republican Caucus; he was a member and secretary of the State Board of Education; he was elected to the Ingham County Commission; he became president of the Market Survey Company (where he served as consultant to numerous candidates for office, specializing in survey research and computer analysis); and in 1978, he was elected to the first of three terms as a member of the Michigan State Senate.

In the Senate, Senator Sederburg has distinguished himself as one of the most thoughtful and reasonable members of the legislature and as one of the true leaders in the development of policies affecting the Michigan institutions of higher education. One of his Senate colleagues, from the Democratic side, identified Senator Sederburg as "a solid thinker; one of the enlightened members of the Senate; one of a select few who, almost always, places rational thought above partisan politics."

As a member of the majority, Senator Sederburg is recognized for his interest and expertise in the area of higher education where he has assisted in the creation and funding of organizations like the Kalamazoo Consortium for Higher Education and where he has led the struggle to bring direction (and funding) to the public and private colleges of Michigan. He is highly respected as the effective leader and eloquent advocate for positive higher education policies not just in the Michigan State Senate but among legislators throughout the nation. He has brought intellectual vigor, academic integrity, and a keen understanding of higher education into the world of politics and legislation.

In the words of the president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan: "Senator Sederburg has been a great friend of independent colleges and a leading supporter of the state student aid and degree reimbursement programs that help preserve the choice of an independent college for Michigan's citizens. Our independent colleges and their students are indebted to him for his role in strengthening and increasing the funding for these programs. We shall genuinely miss his voice in the Senate."

Senator Sederburg has also been in the forefront of the adoption of preventive health proposals and has received the American Cancer Society Public Service Award for promoting clean air in Michigan and the American Lung Association Public Service Award for promoting a healthy environment. He also has been cited as the senator who brought the Michigan Senate into the Twentieth Century through the introduction and use of computer technology in the legislative process. He has also played a leading role in bringing about the restoration of the Michigan Capitol Building, a project now nearing its final stages. His twelve years of dedicated Senate service, concluding this year, are summarized by a Senatorial colleague who says of Bill Sederburg: "He leaves the legislature with his integrity and independence intact."

Outside of the Senate, he is an active member of the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Social Services in Michigan where he chairs the task force on AIDS. In addition, the past two years, Senator Sederburg has maintained direct contact with Kalamazoo College students, as he has taught an on-campus course concerned with the legislative process. Finally, Senator Sederburg has truly qualified as a member of the Kalamazoo College community in that he is an inveterate tennis participant, playing every spare minute that he can find.

Therefore, on behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that WILLIAM A. SEDERBURG, Michigan State Senator, be awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws.