

# PR 3F

Office of the President  
January 22, 2002

Members, Board of Trustees:

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that approval be granted to awarding the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering to Fujio Cho and Doctor of Arts to Loretta Lynn.

Background: The Committee on Honorary Degrees has recommended to the Graduate Faculty and the University Senate that honorary degrees be awarded to Fujio Cho and Loretta Lynn. These three bodies have expressed their approval of the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the two recipients are attached.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **Fujio Cho**

### **2002 Honorary Degree Nominee**

Fujio Cho is a distinguished community and industrial leader who has had a profound impact on the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A native of Japan, he currently serves as president of Toyota Motor Corporation and was the general manager of Toyota Motor Manufacturing, U.S.A. in Georgetown from 1986 to 1994.

Mr. Cho's vision to create a fusion of Japanese work methods and American individualism succeeded in building a plant that now employs over 7,000 team members from nearly every county in the Commonwealth. Toyota Motor Manufacturing prospered under Mr. Cho's direction. TMM has become Kentucky's number one exporter in the global marketplace and received gold plant quality awards from J.D. Power and Associates in both 1993 and 1994.

Under the leadership of Mr. Cho, the Georgetown plant brought a new prosperity and prestige to central Kentucky. In its December 1992 issue, the Lane Report stated that, "Cho has restored global faith in American manufacturing and destroyed the myth that the American worker is not capable of producing world-class consumer goods, and in Kentucky has led to a rebirth in pride that once fueled our nation's industrial machine."

According to the Southern Growth Policies Board in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Toyota's endeavor in Kentucky has been the single most important social-economic development initiative in the South in the last century. In the wake of Toyota's success in Georgetown, more than 100 additional Japanese companies, along with more than 50 German suppliers and over 30 French corporations, have also settled in Kentucky and given the Commonwealth a standing among the four leading automotive states in the nation.

Ever responsive to the needs of the community, Mr. Cho fostered a spirit of philanthropy at Toyota that resulted in substantive support for the Kentucky Bicentennial, as well as funding for the W.T. Young Library at the University of Kentucky. He also initiated support for UK's Center for Robotics and Manufacturing Systems' lean manufacturing pilot program.

For his distinguished record of leadership in industry, educational contributions, and service to the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Fujio Cho is recommended as the recipient of the 2002 Honorary Doctor of Engineering degree.

**Loretta Lynn**  
**2002 Honorary Degree Nominee**

A native of Johnson County, Kentucky, Loretta Lynn has an outstanding record as a preeminent female country singer. Her creative accomplishments as both a writer and performer are manifest through a series of 74 charted country hits. Her ability to affirm the rich cultural heritage of the mountains, while at the same time presenting characteristics of modern women in Appalachian Kentucky, is surpassed by none.

Ms. Lynn's autobiography, *Coal Miner's Daughter*, was on the New York *Times* best-seller list for eight weeks and became a major feature film. She has received over 150 honors and awards for her artistic and humanitarian work.

Of international renown, Ms. Lynn is known for her real-life lyrics that have created an ethnographic record of the people of Appalachia and the coal mining culture. As awareness of the importance of American "roots" music as an authentic alternative to the popular music industry has increased, she has experienced new acclaim for her recording *Still Country*, which speaks with integrity and emotion of her rural Kentucky origins.

Although she now lives in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee, Ms. Lynn maintains close connections with her Kentucky roots. For instance, in 1970, she produced a benefit that raised funds to aid families of the 37 victims of the Hyden mine disaster. She has been heavily involved in efforts to eradicate illiteracy and recently appeared in benefit performances to assist in the establishment of the new Kentucky Music Museum.

For her remarkable creative career, for her renown as a performer, for her ability to affirm the rich cultural heritage of Appalachian Kentucky, the University of Kentucky bestows the 2002 Honorary Doctor of Arts degree on native daughter Loretta Lynn.