

PR 3F

Office of the President
January 22, 2002

Members, Board of Trustees:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Recommendation: that approval be granted to awarding the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering to Mr. Fujio Cho.

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

A biographical sketch of Mr. Cho is attached.

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.