



Patrick F. Leahy

October 7, 2015

Dear Members of the Wilkes University Community:

On September 12, 2003, the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University voted to award William H. Cosby an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. The honorary degree, presented at Commencement on May 15, 2004, cited Mr. Cosby's achievements in education and entertainment, as well as his reputation as a committed social justice and civil rights activist.

When choosing honorary degree recipients, Wilkes University seeks individuals who have a demonstrated record of accomplishment consonant with the ideals of the University.

It has become clear, by Mr. Cosby's own admission in a 2006 legal deposition (*Constand v. Cosby*) that became public this summer, that he engaged in conduct that is contrary to the values of Wilkes University and the qualities for which he was honored. This conduct is not in keeping with the principles of social justice and civil rights stated in the honorary degree citation. Mr. Cosby does not represent the ideals to which Wilkes aspires or the values most important to the University.

In light of these recent developments, at its first meeting of the academic year on October 2, 2015, the Wilkes University Board of Trustees unanimously voted to rescind the honorary degree awarded to Mr. Cosby.

The Board's decision was made following careful consideration and was taken to uphold the interests, mission and values of Wilkes University.

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Leahy
President