



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Illinois State University

Resolution Number 2026.07/43

Approval to Award Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters to Jon Farney

Resolution

Whereas, Illinois State University recognizes individuals of exceptional achievement whose professional accomplishments, leadership, and service reflect the highest ideals of the University, and

Whereas, the conferral of an honorary degree represents one of the University's most distinguished forms of recognition, honoring individuals whose contributions embody the institution's core values, and

Whereas, the President of Illinois State University has recommended that Jon Farney, President and Chief Executive Officer of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, be recognized with an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) for his exceptional contributions to and impact on society that align with the mission and values of Illinois State University, and

Whereas, pursuant to university policy, the recommendation has been reviewed and supported by the Honorary Degree Committee and the Academic Senate and President Tarhule, and

Whereas, Farney's engagement with Illinois State University reflects a strong alignment with the University's mission to advance student-centered education while fostering innovation, collaborative scholarship, and intercultural understanding, and

Whereas, Farney's leadership as President and Chief Executive Officer of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company and his personal philanthropy have demonstrated a sustained commitment to supporting students, faculty, and the University's long-term success.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the awarding of the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, and

Be it further resolved that this honorary degree shall be conferred on Saturday, December 12, 2026, during the University's Winter 2026 Commencement Ceremonies, where Farney will be formally recognized for distinguished achievement and contributions, and

Be it further resolved that the President of Illinois State University is authorized to take all actions necessary to implement this resolution and to extend an official invitation to Farney on behalf of the University.

For Office of the President use only:

Board Action on _____
Motion by _____
Second by _____
Vote _____ Yeas, _____ Nays

ATTEST: Board Action, July 24, 2026

Secretary / Chairperson

**Board of Trustees
Illinois State University
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Jon Farney is President and Chief Executive Officer of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. He has more than 30 years of experience with State Farm and within the insurance and financial services industry. Since joining State Farm in 1993 as a college intern, he has served in a variety of executive leadership positions, including assistant vice president – securities products, assistant vice president – planning and analysis, vice president – financial operations, and operations vice president – underwriting. He was promoted to senior vice president, treasurer, and chief financial officer in 2016. Farney was elected President of State Farm Mutual in January 2024 and assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer in June 2024.

He received a bachelor's degree in accounting from Illinois State University and earned his MBA from the University of Michigan. He is a Certified Public Accountant and has earned the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter®, Chartered Life Underwriter®, Chartered Financial Consultant®, and Fellow, Life Management Institute® designations.

He is a member of both Business Roundtable and The Business Council.