



HONORARY DEGREE CITATION

Gary Locke

Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*

When your grandfather left China in the 1890s he may have been inspired by dreams of what succeeding generations of his family could achieve. It's probably safe to say that, working as a domestic servant in Olympia, Washington, he didn't imagine that the Governor's Mansion might someday be occupied by his grandson. Or that he would become a member of the President's Cabinet, and return to China a little more than a century after his grandfather emigrated to serve as the United States' Ambassador.

Growing up the second of five children in Seattle's Yesler Terrace housing project, you learned the value of education early, becoming an Eagle Scout and graduating with honors from Franklin High School, all while working in your father's grocery store. After receiving your Political Science degree from Yale and a law degree from Boston University, you worked for several years as a deputy prosecutor in King County before pursued a career in politics, first winning election to the State House of Representatives serving the 37th Legislative District. There you soon demonstrated a commanding grasp of policy and budget detail that made you chair of the House Appropriations Committee, and a reputation that would follow you throughout your political career.

As the first Chinese-American governor in U.S. history, your two terms as Washington's Governor led the state successfully through hard economic times, prioritized K-12 and higher education in the state budget, and helped open doors for Washington's businesses through your leadership of ten productive trade missions to Asia, Mexico, and Europe, more than doubling exports to China. Your success in building trade relations made you a natural choice to serve in President Obama's Cabinet as Secretary of Commerce, where an unprecedented 35 trade missions around the world significantly increased exports and opened markets to American businesses.

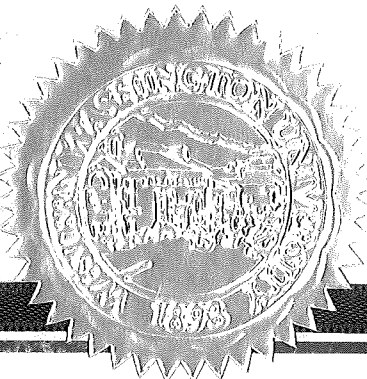
More recently, as the first Chinese-American to serve as Ambassador to China, you continued to promote American values and interests abroad, encouraging Chinese investment in the United States and dramatically reducing U.S. visa wait times for Chinese businesspeople and tourists. Perhaps just as impressive to your hosts was the way you wielded your power and influence as the most prominent American in China. Whether famously carrying your own luggage through the airport or making a visit to your family village in Taishan, your reverence for your Chinese ancestry and unpretentious style struck a chord with the people of China and showed them a different kind of leader.

In recognition of your distinguished career of public service at the state, national and international levels, which has broken new ground in international trade and diplomacy, and for representing the values of dynamism, diversity and determination that make America great, Western Washington University is proud to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

Dated this 14th Day of June, 2014

Bruce Shepard

Bruce Shepard, President



Peggy Zoro

Peggy Zoro, Chair, Board of Trustees