

## **Presentation of Honorary Degree to Dean Allen by EWU President Shari McMahan**

The conferring of an honorary degree is a way for an institution to recognize and honor individuals who have made a significant impact on their respective fields or society. Today, Eastern Washington University is presenting an honorary doctorate to Dean Allen.

Dean is a visionary leader who has made remarkable contributions to Eastern Washington University, the community, and beyond. As the CEO of McKinstry, a nationally recognized leader in the design, construction, optimization, and maintenance of high-performing buildings and energy assets, Dean has dedicated over 45 years to promoting sustainable development and addressing the urgent challenges of climate change, affordability, and equity.

Apart from his success in his industry, what impresses me the most about Dean is his deep care for the community. Guided by the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential, he has served as a board member for the Washington Roundtable and the Seattle Children's Hospital Foundation Board and Research Committee. His dedication to global health and education is evident in his founding board chair position at Washington STEM, an organization focused on advancing early learning, college and career readiness, and postsecondary success.

Dean's commitment to social impact extends far beyond Washington State's borders. As a trustee and past Chair of Global Partnerships, an organization dedicated to expanding opportunities for people living in poverty, he has facilitated the deployment of over \$629 million in impact investments across 32 countries, positively affecting the lives of more than 29 million individuals.

Recognizing the critical importance of improving healthcare and educational access, Dean has also served as a Trustee for the Seattle Children's Hospital Foundation Board and the Center for Global Infectious Disease Research. His experience with global health translates to Eastern Washington, where he has championed the enhancement of rural and low-income health resources.

Dean is a man of action. He sees the challenge and becomes part of the solution. And for Eastern, that means bringing world-class buildings to our region and providing cutting-edge opportunities for our students.

Dean's remarkable leadership is evident in the transformative projects he has spearheaded in Spokane's University District. With his thoughtful guidance, and collaborative approach, he has brought world-class buildings to our region, providing cutting-edge opportunities for EWU students. The SIERR and Catalyst Buildings stand as shining examples of sustainability, energy efficiency, and community collaboration. Few builders or developers in the Pacific Northwest and beyond match Dean's dedication to pushing the envelope of what is possible.

Furthermore, Dean has shown exceptional support for Eastern students and faculty through his generous educational grants program. He has provided substantial funding for projects such as the South Landing Visualization Project, allowing Visual Communication Design students to tackle real-world challenges. His passionate advocacy for health was evident in his enthusiastic legislative support for Eastern's nursing program, a testament to his belief that Eastern is the university in Spokane that "gets things done." Dean's unwavering support for Eastern's values and his commitment to connecting the University District programs in the Catalyst Building to the Cheney campus ensure success for all.

For several years, Dean Allen has selflessly devoted his time, expertise, and resources to Eastern Washington University, leaving an indelible mark on the institution, the community, and society at large. His unwavering dedication to education, social justice, and sustainability has improved countless lives. It is with utmost enthusiasm and without hesitation that we present this honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters to Dean Allen.