

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa

Citation

Jon Meade Huntsman, Jr., in your life you have often taken the road less traveled, led by principles, values, and personal integrity while withstanding the pull of power and adulation. In over two decades of public service, you have demonstrated the finest ideals of statesmanship, ever hewing to a course set by pragmatic diplomacy, principled leadership, and equality and justice under the law.

The independent spirit that would be your guide was evident at an early age. You became an Eagle Scout, yet dropped out of high school to play in a rock band. After earning your G.E.D., you enrolled in college, only to leave and spend two years as a missionary in Taiwan. By the time you earned your Bachelor of Arts degree in international politics at the University of Pennsylvania, you were imbued with a genuine desire to serve your nation and help others. Your rise to achieve those goals would be swift and assured.

After working as a White House staff assistant under President Ronald Reagan, you were appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Asia and then Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Trade Administration under President George H.W. Bush. In 1992, at the age of 32, you were appointed Ambassador to Singapore, becoming the youngest American to head a diplomatic mission in over 100 years. As a Deputy United States Trade Representative in the administration of President George W. Bush, you negotiated dozens of trade agreements with Asian and African nations and played a central role in the simultaneous accession of China and Taiwan into the World Trade Organization.

You were twice elected Governor of Utah, where you achieved a consensus on major tax, education, and health policy reforms. Under your administration, Utah ranked first in the nation in job creation and was named the best-managed state by the Pew Research Center. As governor you signed the Western Climate Initiative to reduce greenhouse gases and promote clean energy technology.

In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed you as U.S. Ambassador to China. Your diplomatic skill and leadership led to multiple new trade agreements and earned you significant international respect for your ability to develop consensus around difficult trade issues. You built bridges between the U.S. and China and are credited by both countries for improved relationships.

You have served with great distinction under four U.S. Presidents. As a governor and diplomat your independence of mind and innate sense of fairness have resulted in real problem solving across international and political divides. For your superb and diverse career in public service, and for your enduring commitment to serve your country in ways that transcend partisan strife, the University of Washington is proud to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

JOANNE R. HARRELL
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

MICHAEL K. YOUNG
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

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