

# Universitatis Reipublicae Michiganensium

Procuratores et Professores Academici  
Omnibus qui has litteras perlegerint Salutem

Sciatis

Paulo Freire

gradu

Legum Doctoris

honoris causa nos ornavisse eique omnia Jura, Privilegia, Immunitates, Dignitates, Honores, Insignia ad hunc Gradum pertinentia dedisse. Cuius in rei testimonium hisce Litteris Universitatis Sigillo munitis nomina nostra subscripsimus.

Datum ex aedibus Universitatis die viceno nono Aprilis  
Anno Salutis millesimo nongentesimo septuagesimo octavo  
Universitatisque centesimo sexagesimo.



*R. L. Kennedy*  
Praeses

*R. L. Kennedy*  
Secretarius



# Paulo Freire

**Educator, Philosopher, Liberator**

*Paulo Freire accuses the have-nations of the world of using education as an instrument of oppressing the have-nots. Consciously or subconsciously we have guarded the means of literate communication to ourselves while keeping them from that other one-third of humanity. Many great leaders in the past have been persecuted for political and religious views that have threatened the national status quo. Paulo Freire, born in Recife, Brazil, was jailed for seventy days and exiled from his homeland for teaching peasants how to read and write their native language. His philosophy of literacy combines the thought of Martin Buber, Noam Chomsky, Ortega y Gasset, and St. Francis of Assisi. Instead of trading to the illiterates of the world the blocks and stones of our own culture, Freire seeks to turn the spoken words for their familiar surroundings and personal yearnings into the symbols that all can read and write. The exercise is not one of hand-down domestication (slaves and animals can be domesticated), but a dialogic process of freeing the disadvantaged individual to become literate, hence human. By explaining his simple but revolutionary method in books and articles of several languages, and by actually practicing it, Paulo Freire is motivating the conscience of the educational world into granting the consciousness of humanity to those who have never possessed it. The University of Michigan, therefore, honors this brave, brilliant, and selfless scholar with the degree*

## Doctor of Laws