


Date: October 19, 2018

To: Campus Community and Friends of the University

From: Paula Castadio, Vice President for University Advancement 

Subject: Call for Recommendations for 2018-19 Honorary Degrees

---

This memorandum serves as the annual call for campus recommendations for the award of honorary doctoral degrees by the Board of Trustees of the California State University (CSU). **The deadline to submit your recommendation is 5:00p.m. on Friday November 9, 2018.** Please submit the nominations to the Office of the Vice President for University Advancement, 5200 North Barton Avenue, M/S ML118, Fresno CA 93740.

The following categories of honorary degrees shall be recognized for conferral by the Board of Trustees:

- Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.)
- Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.)
- Doctor of Laws (LL.D.)
- Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.)
- Doctor of Science (Sc.D.)

Honorary degrees may be awarded to recognize achievements in all parts of the world. Honorary degrees awarded should represent an appropriate balance between local and non-local, and academic and non-academic recipients, and degrees should represent a wide diversity of fields of endeavor.

Service or benefaction to the university do not alone justify the awarding of honorary degrees. However, these criteria do not preclude nominees who are benefactors of the California State University. Personal relationships alone do not justify the awarding of honorary degrees.

Nominees for honorary degrees must demonstrate high moral character, be distinguished in their respective fields, and the eminence of persons nominated must be widely recognized. Nominees must have demonstrated intellectual and humane values that are consistent with the ideals of the California State University, the aims of higher education, and with the highest ideals of the person's chosen fields.

The following are the criteria for awarding CSU honorary degrees:

1. To recognize inspirational character, excellence and extraordinary achievement in significant areas of human endeavor that reflect the objectives and ideals of the California State University.
2. To honor meritorious and outstanding service to the California State University collectively or to individual campuses, the State of California, the United States, or to humanity at large.
3. To recognize individuals whose lives, conduct, and significant achievements serve as examples of the California State University's aspirations for its diverse student body.
4. The honoree must be present at the appropriate California State University function to accept the degree; or in case of the honoree's severe illness, a family member must be present at the appropriate function to accept the degree.
5. A family member must agree to accept a posthumous degree at an appropriate California State University function.

#### Limitations on Eligibility

Honorary degrees shall not be awarded to:

1. Incumbent members of the Board of Trustees of the California State University;
2. The incumbent chancellor of the California State University;
3. Incumbent campus presidents of the California State University;
4. A person who already has been awarded an honorary degree by the California State University;
5. All incumbent elected officials; and
6. Honorary degrees shall not be awarded solely on the basis of past or present employment by the California State University.

#### Procedures for Selecting Honorary Degree Recipients

In all steps of these procedures, utmost care is to be taken to ensure confidentiality. A breach of confidentiality could seriously embarrass the

California State University and those individuals under consideration for the receipt of an honorary degree. Members of campus honorary degree selection committees and the Trustees Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees shall maintain the strictest confidences regarding nominations considered and recommended. No campus representative or trustee is to contact a prospective nominee to discuss the possibility of a nomination. Only after the chancellor officially informs the campus of trustee action may campus personnel discuss the honorary degree with the honoree.

1. Recommendations of persons to receive honorary degrees are encouraged from any member of the CSU community, including trustees, the chancellor, presidents, faculty, students, administrative staff, alumni, campus advisory board members and other friends of the CSU. Such recommendations may include the type of honorary degree believed appropriate.
2. In each nomination cycle, the campus (through the president) may submit two nominations for conferral in the current or immediately subsequent academic year. An approved degree may be awarded in the academic year in which it was authorized for conferral and no later than in the year immediately following the originally approved conferral year. Campuses are responsible for maintaining the limit of conferring only two campus-nominated honorary degrees in one academic year. Trustee-nominated degrees are not included in the limits of two campus-nominated and conferred degrees per year.
3. Recommendations originating in any of the campus communities shall be submitted through the campus president. The submission shall note whether the degree is to be conferred only in the name of the CSU or in the names of the CSU and the campus. Recommendations originating elsewhere within the California State University community at large shall be submitted through the chancellor.
4. Each campus president, after consultation with the executive committee of the campus academic senate, shall establish an honorary degrees selection committee that includes faculty representation. The committee shall review recommendations and assist in the development and compilation of materials in support of nominations to be forwarded. Following appropriate consultation with this committee, the president shall select no more than two nominations to be forwarded to the chancellor in any given academic year. Honorary degrees awarded to couples (as

individuals) shall count as only one degree of the two nominations allowed for each campus annually.

5. The chancellor, in turn, shall review and forward all qualified nominations, with any appropriate comments to a separately constituted Trustees Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees of the Committee on Educational Policy, which meets in conjunction with the annual January meeting of the board.

The Trustees Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees shall be chaired by a member of the Committee on Educational Policy and shall be named by the chair of that committee. The Subcommittee shall be staffed by a member of the Academic and Student Affairs Division and shall include:

- A. One additional trustee (other than the chair of the subcommittee), to be named by the board chair;
  - B. The chancellor or designee;
  - C. Two presidents, to be named by the chancellor; and
  - D. The following representatives, to be appointed by the chancellor following consultation with the respective bodies:
    - a. Two faculty members nominated by the Academic Senate, CSU;
    - b. One alumnus nominated by the CSU Alumni Council; and
    - c. One student nominated by the California State Student Association.
6. The Trustees Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees, meeting in closed session, shall review all nominations received, and shall forward to the Committee on Educational Policy each nomination with the subcommittee's notation of "recommended" or "not recommended," using the policies and criteria set forth in this policy as the basis for the subcommittee's determinations.
  7. The full Committee on Educational Policy, following similar procedures, shall forward to the full board for final consideration no more than two nominations per campus and those nominations originating with the board and/or the chancellor, indicating in each case the full committee's determination of "recommended" or "not recommended."
  8. The Board of Trustees, meeting in closed session, shall make the final determination in each case, and will, by virtue of its exclusive

authority in this matter, agree to award the degree type it considers most appropriate.

Please include the following information in your letters of nomination:

- The full name of the nominee exactly as it will read on the degree and a brief summary of the reasons for putting forth the recommendation. Please see the attached “Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees in the California State University” sections II–IV for guidance on the purposes, criteria and limitations for honorary degree nominations.
- The degree for which the individual is nominated:
  - Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.)
  - Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.)
  - Doctor of Laws (LL.D.)
  - Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.)
  - Doctor of Science (Sc.D.)
- For each nominee, a current, brief curriculum vitae (or comparable biographical information).
- A brief description of the nature of the relationship if the nominee has a well-established relationship with the campus.
- **The deadline to submit your recommendation is 5:00p.m. on Friday November 9, 2018.** Please submit the nominations to the Office of the Vice President for University Advancement, 5200 North Barton Avenue, M/S ML118, Fresno CA 93740.

*Taken in part from Coded Memorandum ASA-2018-14 The California State University, Office of the Chancellor, dated October 12, 2018*

Questions regarding this process at California State University, Fresno can be directed to Kim Cubre at [kimcubre@csufresno.edu](mailto:kimcubre@csufresno.edu) or 559-278-7305.

Questions regarding this CSU policy or process can be directed to Dr. Alison Wrynn at [awrynn@calstate.edu](mailto:awrynn@calstate.edu) or (562) 951-4672.