


MEMORANDUM

Date: October 21, 2020

To: Campus Community and Friends of the University

From: Paula Castadio, Vice President for University Advancement 

Subject: Call for Recommendations for 2020-21 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 6, 2020.** 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;
7. Current faculty and staff, as well as members of their immediate family, are ineligible to receive an honorary degree.

Please include the following information in your letters of nomination:

1. 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.
2. The degree for which the individual is nominated.
3. A 300-400-word summary for each nomination to be used as the basis for the campus commencement citation.
4. For each nominee, a current, brief curriculum vitae (or comparable biographical information).
5. A brief description of the nature of the relationship if the nominee has a well-established relationship with the campus.
6. Listing of the campus committee members who reviewed the nomination (members' names and titles).
7. Confirmation that the Executive Committee of the campus Academic Senate was consulted regarding the composition of the campus review committee.
8. The event at which the degree is to be conferred. If it is proposed that the degree be conferred at an event other than commencement, please identify the appropriate CSU function at which the degree will be conferred.
9. Whether the campus prefers that the degree be awarded:
 - a. in the name of the California State University or
 - b. in the names of the California State University and the campus.

Taken in part from Memorandum received October 19, 2020. The California State University, Office of the Chancellor.

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

Questions regarding this CSU policy or process can be directed to Dr. Melissa R. Lavitt at mlavitt@calstate.edu or (562) 951-4710.