



The State University
of New York

Elizabeth L. Bringsjord, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Executive
Vice Chancellor

State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

www.suny.edu

August 25, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: SUNY Campus Presidents

From: Elizabeth L. Bringsjord, Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Subject: Call for Nominations-Honorary Degree Candidates, 2014-15

On behalf of Chancellor Zimpher and the State University Board of Trustees, I am pleased to invite campus nominations of honorary degree candidates for the 2014-15 academic year.

The nomination process for this year is the same as was in place as last year. Nominations should be prepared consistent with the State University Trustees' *Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees*, last updated in July 2013. As you know, the review process is intentionally rigorous. Honorary Degree nominations submitted by campuses are reviewed first by the System-wide Honorary Degree Committee. Nominations supported by the Committee are presented to the Chancellor for review and then submitted to the SUNY Board of Trustees for consideration. The SUNY Trustees act first by way of an informal review; campuses with approved submissions from that review are notified that they may extend an invitation to the nominee on behalf of the campus, Chancellor and Board of Trustees. If the nominee accepts the campus invitation, their candidacy is then submitted again to the SUNY Trustees for formal vote.

All nominations should be submitted electronically to my office no later than Friday, October 10, 2014 to: honorary.degrees@suny.edu. I will ask the System-wide Committee to meet shortly thereafter so that the recommended candidates can be brought to the SUNY Trustees for initial review as soon as their regularly scheduled meeting in November.

We have provided here a few highlights from the Guidelines, areas on which we receive frequent questions:

- As SUNY is limited in the number of degrees it may award in any one year, the number of degrees each campus may annually award must be limited to (4) four. All campuses may submit a total of (5) five nominees so as to have an adequate pool from which to issue invitations.

To Learn
To Search
To Serve



- Because some nominees are particularly difficult to attract and present the campus with complicated scheduling issues for the granting of the degree, under certain circumstances, the Board of Trustees will entertain a request that the award period be extended for up to three years. In these special circumstances, the nomination form should reflect the reason for the request. You will be notified if the request has been granted when you receive notification of the Trustees' approval.
- As nominations are submitted, it is very helpful to include current curriculum vitae, resume or biographical/background information. However, please note that secondary "supporting materials" –news clips, letters, articles, etc. should be limited to no more than ten pages. If you wish, summaries of back up materials may be included as well as references to websites where further information on nominees may be obtained.

The required Honorary Degree Nomination Form and several key resources are attached:

- a) Honorary Degree Nomination Form;
- b) The Board of Trustees *Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees* (Updated July 2013);
- c) A Summary of Honorary Degree Processes and Procedures; and
- d) A listing of Honorary Degrees awarded to date to: 1) help campuses avoid proposing nominees who have already received awards; and to 2) facilitate campus-by-campus verification of past awards (please let us know of any corrections at: honorary.degrees@suny.edu).

Please do not hesitate to contact Cynthia Proctor at: cynthia.proctor@suny.edu with any questions or concerns. We look forward to reviewing your nominations.

Attachments

Copy: Chairman McCall
Chancellor Zimpher
University Counsel Howard