Drake Medal and Honorary Degree Nomination Process

See below for a brief description of the awards, nomination process, and nomination forms for each honor.

The nomination process for Honorary Degrees and the Drake Medal is confidential. Please do not inform the candidate of your nomination.

DRAKE MEDAL

Statement of Purpose
Drake University awards the Drake Medal to recognize significant service—sustained over time—to the Drake University community, reflecting personal commitment to the University’s quality and character.

Overview and Criteria
The Drake Medal, is similar to an honorary degree in status, and the medallion of the University seal is bestowed at a formal academic convocation. The first Drake Medal was awarded in 1992. Up to three Drake Medals may be awarded each year; the Drake Medal need not be awarded every year.

Drake Medal nominees are evaluated on significant service—sustained over time—to the Drake University community, reflecting personal commitment to the University’s quality and character.

Present University faculty/administrators/staff are not eligible, but emeritus faculty/administrators or retired employees may be nominated.

Please note: receipt of the Drake Medal does not eliminate an individual from being considered for an honorary degree or another University award.

HONORARY DEGREE

Statement of Purpose
Drake University awards honorary degrees recognizing the outstanding achievements of individuals in various fields of endeavor, thereby expressing University values and inspiring excellence.

Overview and Criteria
Granting honorary degrees is an important tradition in academia. Drake University awarded its first honorary degrees in 1884. A maximum of two honorary degrees may be awarded each year; honorary degrees need not be awarded every year.
Honorary degree nominees are evaluated on the following qualifications:

- Nominee should demonstrate outstanding and sustained achievement of a caliber that exemplifies and encourages excellence.
- Achievement may be intellectual, creative, or humanitarian in nature.
- Achievement should reflect Drake University values, including but not limited to intellectual and moral development, the pursuit of truth, and responsible global citizenship.
- Honorary degrees should recognize many fields of excellence; there should not be a preponderance of degrees given in any one field.

The following considerations should be taken into account when nominating an individual:

- Honorary degrees are not intended to recognize contribution or connection to Drake University, although this does not preclude consideration for an honorary degree.
- Past recipients of the Drake Medal or other University awards may be considered for an honorary degree.
- Present members of the staff and the faculty and in-office and campaigning politicians are excluded from consideration.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Please use the appropriate form below to submit your nomination(s). The name of the nominee, general information describing his or her background and accomplishments, and any relevant connection to Drake University are requested. Additional information on your nominee(s) may be submitted on separate sheets. We may request further documentation from you at a later time. Submit a written request to the chair of the Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee to renew a prior nomination. Nominations will remain active for up to three years.

The Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee, which is made up of faculty and staff, will review all nominations and submit a recommendation regarding approval to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate votes on its recommendation, which is submitted to the Drake University Board of Trustees for final consideration.

Nominations should be sent electronically. For more information, please contact the President’s Office at 515-271-2191.
DRAKE MEDAL NOMINATION

Nominee:

Profession or occupation:

Business address:

Home address:

Phone number and/or email of Nominee: ________________________________

Reasons for nomination:

Connection(s) to Drake University:

Nominated by:

Phone:

Email: _____________________

Required materials
  • Letter of nomination
  • 2–3 letters of additional support
  • Resume or CV (as appropriate)
  • Other supporting documentation specific to the nominee
HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATION

Nominee:

Profession or occupation:

Business address:

Home address:

Phone number and/or email of Nominee: ________________________________

Reasons for nomination:

Connection(s) to Drake University:

Nominated by:

Phone:

Email: ____________________

Required materials:
  • Letter of nomination
  • 2–3 letters of additional support
  • Resume or CV (as appropriate)
  • Other supporting documentation specific to the nominee