To: Drake Faculty, Staff, and Trustees
From: Honorary Degree and Drake Medal: Ryan Stoldt (ryan.stoldt@drake.edu), Chair
Subject: Call for Drake Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Nominations

The Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee seeks nominations for Honorary Degrees and Drake Medals to be awarded during the 2026-2027 or 2027-2028 academic years.

This memo provides a brief description of each honor and the nomination process. It concludes with nomination forms for each honor.

The nomination process is confidential. Please do not inform the candidate of your nomination.

Submit nominations and supporting documentation to Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee chair Ryan Stoldt (ryan.stoldt@drake.edu) no later than March 5, 2027.

Thank you for helping us identify candidates of the highest quality.

HONORARY DEGREE

Statement of Purpose

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

Overview

Granting honorary degrees is an important tradition in academia. They recognize intellectual, creative, or humanitarian achievements across many fields of excellence.

A maximum of two Honorary Degrees may be awarded each year. Drake Medals need not be awarded every year.

Drake University awarded its first honorary degrees in 1884. A full list of past recipients can be found at https://www.drake.edu/president/historicalresources/honorarydegreesawardedbydrakeuniversity/

Requirements for Honorary Degree Nominations

For an individual to be considered for an Honorary Degree, the following materials should be submitted to the Honorary Degree and Drake Medal committee:

- A completed nomination form
- Letter of nomination
- 2-3 letters of additional support
- Resume or CV (as appropriate)
- Other supporting documentation specific to the nominee

Honorary degrees are not intended to recognize contributions or connections to Drake University, although contributions or connections to Drake University do not preclude consideration for an honorary degree.

Past receipts of the Drake Medal or other Drake University awards may be considered for an honorary degree.

Current Drake University administrators, faculty, and staff as well as in-office or campaigning politicians are excluded from consideration.

Criteria

Honorary Degree nominees are evaluated on the following considerations:

- Outstanding and sustained achievement of a caliber that exemplifies and encourages excellence. Achievement may be intellectual, creative, or humanitarian in nature.
- Achievement that reflects Drake University's mission and values, including but not limited to intellectual and moral development, the pursuit of truth, and responsible global citizenship. Read more about Drake University's mission and values at https://www.drake.edu/about/mission/
- Honorary degrees recognize excellence across many field. There should not be a preponderance of degrees given in any one field.

DRAKE MEDAL

Statement of Purpose

Drake University awards the Drake Medal to recognize significant service, which has been sustained over time, to the Drake University community, reflecting personal commitment to the University's quality and character.

Overview

The University awards the Drake Medal to recognize significant, long-term service to the Drake University community, reflecting personal commitment to the University's quality and character. The Drake Medal is similar to an honorary degree in status and is bestowed at a formal academic convocation.

A maximum of three Drake Medals may be awarded each year. Drake Medals need not be awarded every year.

The first Drake Medals were awarded in 1992. A full list of past recipients is listed at https://www.drake.edu/president/historicalresources/drakemedalrecipients/

Requirements for Drake Model Nominations

For an individual to be considered for a Drake Medal, the following materials should be submitted to the Honorary Degree and Drake Medal committee:

- A completed nomination form
- Letter of nomination
- 2-3 letters of additional support
- Resume or CV (if appropriate)
- Other supporting documentation specific to the nominee

Current Drake University administrators, faculty, and staff are not eligible for a Drake Medals. Emeritus faculty and administrators or retired employees may be nominated.

Criteria

Drake Medal nominees are evaluated on the following considerations:

- Provision of significant service, which has been sustained over time, to the Drake University community, reflecting personal commitment to the University's quality and character.

NOMINATION AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee, which includes three faculty representatives, one staff representative recommended by the All-Staff Council, an emeritus representative, and one current Board of Trustees member, will review all nominations and submit a recommendation for the issuance of Honorary Degrees and Drake Medals to the Drake University Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate votes on the Committee's recommendation, which may then be submitted to the Drake University Board of Trustees for final consideration.

Please use the appropriate form (attached) to submit your nomination(s). Nominations that do not include all the required documentation will not be reviewed. The Committee may request further documentation from you at a later time.

Nominations should be sent electronically. Send nominations to the Drake Medal and Honorary Degree Committee chair ryan.stoldt@drake.edu. Send the nomination materials no later than March 5, 2027.

Nominations from prior years may be renewed by submitted a written request to the chair of the Drake Medal and Honorary Degree Committee. Nominations may remain active for up to three years.

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HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name:

Nominee's Profession or Occupation:

Nominee's Contact Information:

Brief Explanation of Reasons for Nomination:

Nominee's Connection to Drake University (if applicable):

Required Materials for Nomination:

- ☐ Letter of nomination
- ☐ 2-3 letters of additional support
- ☐ Resume or CV (as appropriate)
- ☐ Other supporting documentation specific to the nominee

Nominated By:

Email:

Phone Number:

DRAKE MEDAL NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name:

Nominee's Profession or Occupation:

Nominee's Contact Information:

Brief Explanation of Reasons for Nomination:

Nominee's Connection to Drake University:

Required Materials for Nomination:

- ☐ Letter of nomination
- ☐ 2-3 letters of additional support
- ☐ Resume or CV (as appropriate)
- ☐ Other supporting documentation specific to the nominee

Nominated By:

Email:

Phone Number: