

AP 2750 Awarding of Honorary Degrees

I. Guidelines

- A. The Board of Trustees shall determine the number of honorary degrees to be awarded in any academic year.
- B. The Board of Trustees shall approve recipients of all honorary degrees.
- C. The following categories of honorary degrees shall be recognized for conferral by the Board of Trustees:
 - 1. Associate of Arts
 - 2. Associate of Science

II. Purpose For Which Honorary Degrees May be Conferred

- A. To recognize excellence and extraordinary achievement in significant areas of human endeavor, within which are embodied the objectives and ideas of the Santa Clarita Community College District.
- B. To honor meritorious and outstanding service to California community colleges; collectively, or to College of the Canyons, individually; to the State of California; to the United States; or to humanity-at-large.
- C. To recognize women and men whose lives and significant achievements should serve as examples of the Santa Clarita Community College District's aspirations for its diverse student body.

III. Criteria for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees

- A. Honorary degrees may be awarded to recognize achievements in all parts of the world. Honorary degrees awarded may represent a wide diversity of fields of endeavor.
- B. Nominees for honorary degrees must 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 aims of higher education, and with the highest ideals of the person's chosen fields.
- C. Service or benefactions to the College itself do not in themselves justify the awarding of honorary degrees. However, nothing in these criteria shall preclude nominees who are in political life, or who are benefactors of the Santa Clarita Community College District, or who have assisted the District in noteworthy ways.

IV. Limitations on Eligibility

Honorary degrees shall not be awarded to:

- A. Incumbent members of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Clarita Community College District.
- B. Any current employee of the college district.
- C. Incumbent elected officials.

V. Procedures for Selecting Honorary Degree Recipients

In all steps of these procedures, utmost care will be taken to ensure confidentiality. A breach of confidentiality could seriously embarrass the Santa Clarita Community College District and those individuals under consideration for the receipt of an honorary degree.

- A. Recommendations of persons to receive honorary degrees are encouraged from any member of the Santa Clarita community College District community, including Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer of the District, faculty, students, administrative staff, classified staff, alumni, campus Advisory Board members, Foundation Board members and other friends of College of the Canyons.
- B. All recommendations shall be submitted through the Chief Executive Officer of the District. The recommendations will be in writing on the appropriate form and will include relevant backup material.
- C. The President of the Academic Senate (or designee) and one faculty member shall meet with the Governing Board in Closed Session to review the nominations received.
- D. The Board of Trustees, meeting in Closed Session, shall make the final determination and will, by virtue of its exclusive authority in this matter, “award” the degree to the nominees they feel are most deserving.

VI. Conferral of Degree

- A. Honorary degrees may be conferred during any Santa Clarita Community College District function which the Board of Trustees considers appropriate.
- B. Normally, the following will participate in the conferral ceremony:
 - 1. The Chief Executive Officer of the District (or designee) will read the Citation.
 - 2. The President of the Board of Trustees (or designee) will confer the honorary degree and issue the diploma.
 - 3. The Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction and Student Services or Academic Senate President will cap the degree recipient.

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