




OFFICE OF THE
Senior Vice President & Provost

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Officers
Deans, Directors, and Chairs – Norman Campus and Health Science Center
Presidents of Student Associations, Norman and HSC
Chairs, Faculty Senates, Norman and HSC
Members of the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents
Chairs, Staff Senates, Norman and HSC
Members of Board of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association
Chair, University of Oklahoma Foundation Board of Trustees

FROM: Kyle Harper, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Provost, Norman Campus 
Chair, Honorary Degrees Screening Committee

SUBJECT: Honorary Degrees Nominations **Deadline: March 10, 2017**

DATE: January 26, 2017

By action of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the University of Oklahoma was authorized to confer honorary degrees for the first time in May 1991. Since that time, approximately 100 outstanding individuals have been honored at Commencement with this distinction. It is now time to begin the nomination, review, and selection process for OU's May 2018 honorary degree recipients.

As chair of the Honorary Degrees Screening Committee, I write to encourage you, in consultation with your colleagues, to consider nominating individuals whose achievements or contributions would merit the highly selective award of an honorary degree from the University. The criteria established by the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents calls for granting awards "only in recognition of extraordinary achievement in such fields as science and technology, the arts and humanities, business and public service; or in recognition of outstanding contributions to the welfare and/or enrichment of the University, state, nation, or world." Awarding honorary degrees provides an opportunity to reward excellence and to bring additional prestige to the University.

The details of the nominating procedure are described in the materials enclosed with this memorandum.

The attached nomination form is due in my office on or before March 10, 2017. All nominations will be treated confidentially by the committee.

If you have any questions, please contact Grey Allman at 405.325.3228 or me at 405.325.3221.

Attachments

**Call for Nominations
University of Oklahoma Honorary Degrees
To Be Conferred May 2018**

Nominations are invited on or before **March 10, 2017**, for the award of University of Oklahoma honorary degrees. The Board of Regents at the University of Oklahoma has authorized honorary degrees to be awarded under the following terms:

It is the intent of the University of Oklahoma to award honorary degrees only in recognition of extraordinary achievement in such fields as science and technology, the arts and humanities, business and public service; or in recognition of outstanding contributions to the welfare and/or enrichment of the University, state, nation or world. Recipients may be an alumnus or any individual who has made outstanding contributions to a field or profession represented at the University of Oklahoma.

Nominations may be made by any individual, although no individual may nominate himself or herself. Honorary degrees shall not be conferred on any faculty member, administrator, or other official associated with the University before such individual has been separated from the institution for at least two years; nor awarded to any individual currently in state government. Honorary degrees will not be awarded in absentia unless extraordinary circumstances (as determined by the President) exist.

Nominations should be accompanied by the following:

- A vitae or complete biographical sketch describing education, experience, professional activities, appointments, honors, previous honorary degree awards, and all other information pertinent to the awarding of an honorary degree.
- At least three letters of endorsement (in addition to the nominator's narrative) supporting the nomination. The choice of references should manifest the breadth of reputation of the nominee.
- Additional pertinent information.

All nominations are treated confidentially by the Honorary Degrees Screening Committee.

The completed nomination form is due by **March 10, 2017**, to Senior Vice President and Provost Kyle Harper, Ph.D., Chair, Honorary Degrees Screening Committee, Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost, 660 Parrington Oval, Room 104, Norman, Oklahoma, 73019. Additional materials supporting the nomination and a dossier may be forwarded at that time, but no later than March 31, 2017, to ensure consideration by the committee.