

## **CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERISTY**

### **HONORARY DEGREES**

The Honorary Degree is the highest award given by the University. The awarding of the Honorary Degree recognizes an individual of distinction, one who has achieved the highest level of skill and competence in his discipline. The awarding of an Honorary Degree is also an expression of the ideals of the University reflected in the recipients who are awarded, bringing honor and distinction to the University as well as the individual.

Honorary degrees are typically awarded at the May and December commencement ceremonies and, occasionally, at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Commencement. No more than three honorary degrees should be awarded at each of the commencement ceremonies.

#### **Honorary Degree Nomination Guidelines**

Suggested candidates to receive an honorary degree from Cleveland State University are those with the following characteristics:

1. Distinguished alumni of CSU
2. Distinguished people who have a significant connection to CSU
3. Distinguished people who have a strong connection to Cleveland or NE Ohio
4. People who have made a significant contribution to higher education
5. People whose reputation locally, nationally, or internationally will enhance the reputation of CSU and serve as an example to its students
6. An emeritus faculty member

In order to avoid the appearance of being self-serving, the following individuals are excluded from consideration, with exceptions noted:

1. Current employees or degree-earning students of CSU
2. Current members of the Board of Trustees, except those who are in their last year of service on the Board or later
3. Current political office holders, with possible exceptions for national and/or international leaders whose achievements merit consideration

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### **Information and Documentation Required for Submission of Nominations for an Honorary Degree**

1. A formal nomination consists of the following:
  - a written narrative letter from an individual with a connection to CSU, stating the significant achievements of the nominee and why the individual is deserving of the University's highest honor
  - biographical and other information supporting the nomination
  - a second letter of recommendation (not from the same college or department)
  - name, address and phone number of nominee or contact in the case of posthumous award
  
2. Nominations will be accepted throughout the year; however the following timeline will be enacted:
  - Nominations must be received by February 1 for consideration for May Commencement ceremonies (one year in advance is preferred)
  - Nominations must be received by September 15 for consideration for December Commencement (one year in advance is preferred)
  
3. Nominations should be directed to:

Chair, Recognition Committee  
Board of Trustees  
Cleveland State University  
2121 Euclid Avenue, AC 327  
Cleveland, OH 44115-2214
  
4. Once a nominee has been approved by the Committee, there will be a two-year period in which the nominee will remain eligible.