

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
(Final; Information)**

HD.14.01 Request for Nominations for Honorary Degrees

Conferral of an honorary degree (degree *honoris causa*) recognizes an individual’s exceptional achievement or distinction in a field or activity consonant with the mission of the university. The individual should have made a distinguished contribution to knowledge and creativity and have shown sustained activity of uncommon merit. Through the awarding of an honorary degree, the University seeks both to honor the recipient and to bring honor upon itself by association with that individual. Conferral of such degrees at commencement is intended to inspire and encourage graduating students and others attending the ceremony.

Honorary degrees at the University of Illinois have been conferred for work in a variety of fields, including scholarship (in any discipline), the creative arts, public service, business, industry and labor. The following types of honorary degrees are used on this campus: Doctor of Engineering, Doctor of Fine Arts, Doctor of Humane Letters, Doctor of Jurisprudence, Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Literature, Doctor of Music, Doctor of Public Administration, Doctor of Science, Doctor of Science and Letters, Doctor of Social Service and Doctor of University Administration.

Nominations may be submitted by any individual associated with the university, however, Senate guidelines emphasize nominations made by or supported by departments or other academic units. Consideration may be given to the extent to which the candidate has a prior association with either the University of Illinois or the State of Illinois. Current employees of the University and elected officials of the State of Illinois are ordinarily not eligible. Alumni and former employees of the University, whose professional and societal contributions merit such recognition, may be considered.

Former recipients of honorary degrees from the University of Illinois include:

Barry Bearak (2003): reporter, New York Times Magazine; visiting professor of journalism, Columbia University. Recipient of the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting.
Rita Colwell (2003): former director, National Science Foundation.
Lani Guinier (2004): professor of law, Harvard, University; former head, voting rights project, NAACP Legal Defense Fund.
Judith Krug (2005): director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association; cofounder of ‘Banned Books Week’.
Burt Rutan (2006): aerospace engineer; president and CEO of Scaled Composites, Inc. Designed Voyager (first aircraft to circle the world nonstop without refueling), SpaceShipOne (first privately-built manned spacecraft to reach space)
Fred Volkmar (2013): Irving B. Harris Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, Yale University. Recognized for pioneering research in the treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Request for Nominations for Honorary Degrees

The Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees is pleased to invite nominations for the May 2015 honorary degree awards. Nomination procedures are detailed below. You are urged to nominate, through your unit (department, school, college, etc.), outstanding candidates for Honorary Degree awards.

Nominations may be submitted at any time; however, nominations to be considered for the May 2015 commencement must be received by November 1. Please note that in order to maintain absolute confidentiality, under no circumstances is any potential candidate to be contacted even to obtain lists of references and/or vitae. Please use only non-University of Illinois persons for references. Only the President and/or Chancellor may contact candidates.

The Committee appreciates your help in identifying outstanding individuals whom the University can honor and, in so doing, honor itself. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Senate Office (333-6805). For your convenience, a nomination form is at (http://www.senate.illinois.edu/hd_form.pdf).

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY DEGREES

The prime, controlling consideration should be distinction. The person should have made a distinguished contribution to knowledge and creativity in the relevant field of endeavor, and have shown sustained activity of uncommon merit. The contributions may be made in a wide range of activities; the following list is not exhaustive:

Scholarship, any discipline: major breakthroughs in knowledge in fields of scholarly work.

Creative Arts (literature, music, architecture, engineering, et al): the development of new frontiers of creativity.

Professions: distinguished contributions, innovative work of distinction.

Public Service: outstanding achievement in statesmanship, administration, legislative activity, the judiciary, or in non-governmental civic activities.

Business, Industry and Labor: outstanding, innovative activity in the business and/or labor community.

Following Senate guidelines, the Committee will consider, but not be bound by, the degree to which the candidate has had some association with Illinois - the University or the State. While alumni of the University should not be excluded, honorary degrees are not a means of recognizing their contributions; other awards exist for this purpose. Current administrators, faculty, or staff of the University ordinarily are not eligible; while emeriti are eligible even if engaged in teaching or research at the University. Elected officials of the State of Illinois and its subordinate units and members of the Legislature, during their terms of office, ordinarily are not eligible.

Senate guidelines emphasize recommendations by departments and other academic units. A nomination coming to the Committee from a member of the Board of Trustees, an alumnus/alumna, or a friend of the University will be referred to the proper academic unit for support of the faculty.

For full consideration of the nomination by the Committee for the May 2015 commencement, the nominator or nominating unit should supply the following information to the Committee by November 1:

1. A brief letter of nomination, summarizing the candidate's qualifications for this honor, and certifying the support of the appropriate academic unit.
2. A brief curriculum vitae of the nominee, including addresses, telephone numbers, or other means by which the nominee can be reached. If the nomination finds substantial initial support in the Honorary Degrees Committee, additional information may be requested from the department to develop the case and to provide the Senate with the materials it needs for the final decision.
3. The names and addresses of at least four professionally-distinguished individuals who could be contacted for letters of support or further information about the candidate. It is hoped that oral communications among professional colleagues will help assure the confidentiality of the decision process.

Nominations and full dossiers should be marked confidential and sent to the Committee on Honorary Degrees, c/o Senate Office, 228 English Building, MC-461.