


MEMORANDUM

Date: September 22, 2020

TO: Academic Deans

FROM: Liesl Folks, Ph.D., MBA 
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

SUBJECT: Call for 2021 Honorary Degree Nominations

I am writing to encourage you to identify candidates to nominate for honorary degrees. These honorary degrees, which recognize distinguished contributions to the University, the State, the nation, or the world at large, will be awarded at upcoming ceremonies.

Please note that our practice is to offer some honorary degrees off-cycle during the year at special ceremonies. This enables us to (i) keep the honorary degrees awarded at the main May commencement to a manageable number (approximately three, including the commencement speaker), and (ii) avoid limiting the total number awarded in a year below that threshold. As you identify potential nominees, please strongly consider the special ceremony approach. Note that this requires advanced planning to ensure that the President or Provost is available to present at the ceremony and grant the degree.

University policy requires all nominations to come from an "organized faculty unit" (e.g., college, department, or program), supported by a vote of the relevant faculty group. No more than one nomination from a single college or faculty will be approved in any given year.

In your nomination materials, you and the nominating unit will provide the nominee's curriculum vitae and a biosketch of approximately 500 words indicating why the award is appropriate. This statement should focus on the significance of the nominee's work, drawing clear and particular attention to the nominee's connection to the University, the Tucson community, and/or the State of Arizona. Exceptions to this general rule may be made only if the case is compelling.

We ask that the proposal be submitted online through [UA Competition Space](https://facultyaffairs.arizona.edu/content/honorary-degrees) by November 27th, 2020 at 5:00 pm. For more information on the honorary degrees policy and procedures, visit: <https://facultyaffairs.arizona.edu/content/honorary-degrees>