



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2021 UWM Honorary Degrees

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, September 25, 2020**

**TO:** UWM Faculty, Staff, Students, and UW System Board of Regents

**FROM:** Virginia Stoffel, 2019-20 Chair  
UWM Honorary Degrees Committee

The UWM Honorary Degrees Committee invites nominations of candidates for honorary degrees to be awarded by the University in 2021.

UWM's honorary degree recognizes a career of extraordinary accomplishment. While there is often a supreme achievement for which a candidate is best known, an honorary degree is not given in recognition of a single deed. ***Special attention is paid to evidence regarding the sum and distinction of the individual's professional achievements, his/her personal integrity, as well as the range, substance, and value of the nominee's outreach activities.***

The committee looks for sustained and characteristic activity exhibiting uncommon merit of a moral, intellectual, aesthetic, or statesmanlike sort. In no case is a financial gift to the university to be a consideration for granting an honorary degree. The committee strongly recommends that special attention be given to nominating women and minority candidates. Faculty legislation requires that at least one-half of the candidates selected have some connection with the university system, the city, or the state. The pertinent legislation and a list of previous honorary degree awardees can be viewed at:

<http://uwm.edu/secu/faculty/standing/hondeg/>.

According to [UW System policy](#), honorary degrees may **not** be given to current public officials and political appointees at the U.S. national, state, or local government levels; current UW System Regents; UW System employees; and anyone who has previously received an honorary degree from any UW System institution. See UWM's guidelines in [SAAP 1-12, Honorary Degrees](#).

Individuals or departments can recommend candidates. Recommendations must be endorsed by a formal academic department or a non-departmentalized school or college and signed by the appropriate dean. A department making more than one recommendation must rank its nominees. Completed nominations packet (see criteria below) must be submitted electronically as one PDF document to the Honorary Degrees Committee, c/o Secretary of the University, ([secofunv@uwm.edu](mailto:secofunv@uwm.edu)) no later than **September 25, 2020**.

Due to the sensitivity of the selection process, nominations must be kept strictly confidential. Candidates must not be told of their nomination. Individuals asked to write letters of support should be urged to maintain absolute confidentiality. Nominations are approved by the Honorary Degrees Committee, The Chancellor, the UWM Faculty Senate, and the Board of Regents. **The Chancellor contacts candidates only after all approvals are obtained.**

Individuals or departments planning to submit a nomination are urged to inform the committee chair of their intentions. A representative of the nominating department will be invited to appear before the committee in support of that department's candidate. The UWM department or school/college that nominated a candidate selected for an honorary degree will work with the development office to arrange social events held in conjunction with the conferring of the degree.

**UWM 2021 HONORARY DEGREE  
NOMINATION CRITERIA**

**\*\*Nomination Deadline: September 25, 2020\*\***

Nomination materials should be submitted electronically as **one PDF**, to [secofunv@uwm.edu](mailto:secofunv@uwm.edu). No hard copies are required. **Nominations must be treated with strict confidentiality and nominees should not be contacted.** \*

A complete nomination must consist of the following items:

1. Cover page that includes:
  - A. Name, title, and contact information of nominee, and the suggested honorary doctorate title. A list of past honorees and some doctorates is available at: <http://uwm.edu/secu/faculty/standing/hondeg/>
  - B. The academic department nominating the individual and other units of the university which are endorsing the nomination and recommending it to the UWM Honorary Degrees Committee. All nominations must be made or endorsed by an UWM academic department, school or college and signed by the dean.
  - C. Name, title, email, and phone number of person bringing the nomination before the primary sponsoring unit.
  - D. Department and/or school/college, and names and signatures of individuals transmitting the nomination to the Honorary Degrees Committee.
2. A summary (not to exceed two pages) of the career of the nominee, including a statement of professional achievements, public service or other outstanding contributions, with a brief statement as to why the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in particular should grant this person an honorary degree.
3. At least three (preferably not more than six) confidential letters of recommendation from recognized professionals in the field of expertise of the nominee, solicited by the nominating unit. Letters should be from individuals who are familiar with the nominee's qualifications and able to comment upon them. If possible, the letters of recommendation should include contact information for the letter writer.
4. A curriculum vitae, resume, or biography of the nominee is strongly recommended.

\* The individual(s) forwarding the nomination affirm that (as far as they are aware) strict confidentiality has been observed in preparing this nomination, and that this confidentiality requirement has been communicated to writers of support letters.