



## Distinguished Alumni Award Criteria

### **Purpose and Philosophy**

Each year the SMSU Alumni Association seeks to recognize alumni and friends who have made significant contributions of time, talent or financial resources to help advance and bring positive recognition to Southwest Minnesota State University.

### **Eligibility**

With the exception of the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award or the John and Kathy Paxton Alumni Service Award, the candidates must have a degree from Southwest Minnesota State University. Students in certificate courses, noncredit courses, and continuing education courses are not eligible.

### **Nomination Criteria**

Qualified candidates for the Distinguished Alumni Award may be accomplished in the following areas:

- **Professional Attainment and Achievement** – Candidates should have attained prominence in his or her industry or profession. Their work should have a demonstrated impact.
- **Community Service/ Outstanding Service to Industry or Profession** – Candidates should have demonstrated outstanding voluntary service to his or her community or outstanding service to his or her industry or profession.
- **Southwest Minnesota State University Loyalty and Support** – Candidates should have demonstrated a pride in their alma mater through contributed time, talent or resources. Their interest in and loyalty to SMSU should be evident.
- **Integrity and Character** - Candidate must have the highest standard of personal integrity and character.

**The Honorary Lifetime Membership Award** will be presented to a candidate who meets all the selection criteria but does not hold a degree from Southwest Minnesota State University.

**The John and Kathy Paxton Alumni Service Award** will be presented to a candidate who demonstrates outstanding service to Southwest Minnesota State University.

**The GOLD (Graduate of Last Decade) Award** is presented to a graduate of Southwest Minnesota State University. The GOLD Award is to recognize recent graduates with exceptional achievement and significant contribution to the recipient's profession or community/society or university. The graduate must have graduated in the past ten years.

**Candidates must be able to attend the Alumni Awards Luncheon during Homecoming if selected as an Honoree.**

**Method of Nomination**

- ❖ The SMSU Alumni Association will provide an award nomination form upon request as well as post a downloadable form at [www.SouthwestAlumni.com](http://www.SouthwestAlumni.com)
- ❖ Nominations may be made by any member of the SMSU Alumni Association.
- ❖ Nominations may be made by administration, alumni, faculty, friend, former student or staff of Southwest Minnesota State University.
- ❖ There is no limit placed on the number of nominations.
- ❖ Multiple nominations per individual will be considered.
- ❖ An individual can only receive the award one time.
- ❖ In the event that a candidate is not selected as an Honoree, his or her nomination packet will be carried over to the next year for consideration.
- ❖ Nominators must submit a completed nomination packet (details to follow).

**Nomination Packet**

Qualified candidate for the Distinguished Alumni Award should have submitted nomination packets including the following:

Completed Nomination Form

Bio

Newspaper and magazine articles if applicable

Awards or certificates of achievement if applicable

Other items of interest

Nominations for awards are encouraged and may be sent to:

Stacy Frost, Senior Director of Alumni Relations and Outreach 1501 State Street, Marshall, MN 56258

Email to [Stacy.Frost@smsu.edu](mailto:Stacy.Frost@smsu.edu)