

### **Purpose and Philosophy**

The purpose of the Distinguished Alumnus Award is to recognize College of Health Professions alumni who have achieved a high level of success in their professions and/ or made significant contributions to society or the college. Such individuals bring distinction to themselves and the college and honor the college's legacy of excellence.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award does more than honor its recipients. It illustrates the great value of the College of Health Professions' academic programs; highlights the importance of the allied health professions; and fosters pride for the college among students, faculty, staff, donors, friends, and advocates.

### **Criteria for Selection**

Recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award must have graduated from one of the college's certificate or degree programs at least five years previous to his/her selection. Recipients are highly accomplished in at least one of the following areas:

- Professional Achievement – The recipient has attained prominence in his/her allied health profession through distinctive accomplishments or leadership. Generally, such accomplishments are marked by regional or national awards, recognition by business or professional groups, extraordinary contributions to the profession through scholarly activity, etc.
- Significant Contributions – The recipient has demonstrated sustained service that makes a significant impact to the larger society, his/her profession, or the college. Service need not be directly related to healthcare services, but it should have as its purposes the betterment of individuals or groups.

### **Nomination Process**

Nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus Award may be submitted by any alumnus, employee, clinical education preceptor or supervisor, student, member of the college's Advisory Board, or member of any advisory board of one of the college's programs.

Nominations are accepted according to the following guidelines:

1. The Distinguished Alumnus Award Nomination Form is available online. A paper copy will be supplied on request.
2. In addition to completing and submitting the nomination form (required), nominators are encouraged to provide supporting materials that further document the nominee's achievements and contributions. Such items may include:
  - Letter of nomination from the nominator (required)
  - Letters of support from non-family members that specifically address the criteria (required)
  - Current biography or curriculum vitae for the nominee
  - Newspaper or magazine articles
  - Personal stories
  - Copies of publications by the nominee
  - Awards or certificates of achievement
  - Other items of interest
3. One nomination per individual is considered.
4. Current employees of the College of Health Professions are not eligible to be nominated.

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<sup>1</sup> Portions of this document were copied or adapted from guidelines for the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University, <http://www.aggienetwork.com/media/guides/award%20programs/distinguished%20alumni/criteria.pdf>.

5. Nomination forms are held for each nominee for a period of three years. If the nominee is not selected for the award, his/his nomination form may be updated and renewed by the original or other appropriate nominator for consideration in a subsequent year. The Office of the Dean will contact nominators for annual re-submissions.
6. No limitation is placed on the total number of nominations accepted for consideration.
7. The name of the nominator will not be disclosed.
8. The dean, associate deans, chancellor, and vice chancellors may not nominate an individual for the award.
9. Letters of support may be submitted by anyone with the exception of the dean, associate deans, chancellor, and vice chancellors.
10. The Call for Nominations is issued during January and the deadline for nominations is generally established as March 1 of each year. The recipient is selected by May 1.

### **Selection of Award Recipients**

To assure the integrity and prestige of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, only one recipient is selected each academic year. There is no requirement that the award be given every year.

Nominees are considered regardless of race, ethnic background, sex or gender, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, veteran's status, or other categories protected by university policy.

Recipients of the award must be willing and able to attend the College of Health Professions' fall Academic Convocation where the award is bestowed. Nominees selected for the award who are not able to attend the convocation may be given priority consideration in a subsequent year.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award Selection Committee consists of:

- Two alumni of College of Health Professions certificate or degree programs
- One current student
- One faculty member
- One staff member
- Associate dean for academic affairs, who will serve as the convener of the committee
- One member of the College of Health Professions Advisory Board

### **Announcement and Recognition**

The Office of the Dean:

- Notifies award recipients personally of their selection for the award
- Announces award recipients annually through various methods
- Honors the recipient during the College of Health Professions' fall Academic Convocation