From: Tom Sullivan, President

To: University of Vermont Community

Re: Commencement 2017 - Honorary Degree Nominations

Although the 215th Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 22, 2016 is a number of months away, plans are under way for the 216th Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 21, 2017. An important aspect of the ceremony is the awarding of honorary degrees and the delivery of the Commencement address. On behalf of the Honorary Degree Advisory Committee, I invite and welcome your participation in the process by submitting nominations of potential honorary degree recipients and persons to be considered to deliver the Commencement address.

The Honorary Degree Advisory Committee will begin the work of identifying those candidates who best meet the established criteria. It is the University President’s authority to select the Commencement speaker, in consultation with the Committee, who may also be recommended to receive an honorary degree.

Honorary Degree and Commencement speaker nominations may be submitted online at Commencement 2017. In addition to information on the process of submitting a nomination, the website contains the criteria considered in conferring an honorary degree and recommending a Commencement speaker along with areas considered when evaluating nominations. Below is a link to previous honorary degree recipients. If you would prefer to mail your nomination, please write to Honorary Degree Advisory Committee, c/o Gary Derr, Vice President for Executive Operations, 347 Waterman Building, 85 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT, 05405. The deadline for nominations for Commencement 2016 is Monday, February 22, 2016. Your letter should state how the nominee fits the nomination criteria and why the University should honor the nominee in this way. Please also include biographical information, whether the nominee has connections to UVM or Vermont, and the nominee’s current contact information, as well as yours. As the Committee is tasked to narrow nominations to a list of 3 – 5 nominees for recommendation, it is important that nominators keep their nominations confidential.

Please accept my gratitude on behalf of the Honorary Degree Advisory Committee for your involvement in this important process.

Previous Honorary Degree Recipients