

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees honors persons who exemplify its ideals and traditions through honorary degrees.
- 1.2 The Board of Trustees recognizes that honorary degrees may be awarded by the Colleges of the Los Rios Community College District for four purposes:
 - 1.2.1 To recognize excellence and extraordinary personal or professional achievement in areas that embody the Colleges' and District's mission, vision, and values.
 - 1.2.2 To honor outstanding or meritorious public service to the District, its Colleges, and the wider society.
 - 1.2.3 To recognize persons who serve as examples for the College's student body.
 - 1.2.4 To honor academic excellence in the individual's field of endeavor.
- 1.3 The Board is committed to award honorary degrees to recipients who reflect the diversity of interests, backgrounds, and concerns reflected in the Colleges, and the community served by the Colleges and the District.

2.0 Types of Degrees Awarded

- 2.1 Honorary degrees shall be awarded as an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science in a particular discipline and be issued in the name of one the four Colleges of the District.

3.0 Procedure for Recommendation and Approval of Board of Trustees

- 3.1 Recommendations originating from any of the College constituencies shall be submitted to the College President, who shall establish a Committee on Honorary Degrees to review recommendations. While the number of nominations is not limited, except under unusual circumstances, the Committee on Honorary Degrees shall select no more than two nominees per college per year to be forwarded to the Chancellor.
- 3.2 There shall be a Committee on Honorary Degrees at each College to review the nominees from that College. The Committee on Honorary Degrees shall be chaired by the nominating College Vice President of Instruction and include the following members:
 - 3.1.1 The College Academic Senate President;
 - 3.1.2 The Chair of the Department(s) from which the degrees will be issued;

- 3.1.3 The Classified Senate President; and
- 3.1.4 The President of the College Student Body Senate.
- 3.3 The Committee on Honorary Degrees shall review the nominations and make a recommendation to the College President. The Committee shall also assist in compiling material in support of the nominations forwarded to the President.
- 3.4 The Chancellor shall forward nominations to the Board for its review and approval.
- 3.5 Honorary Degrees are typically awarded at College Commencement ceremonies and conferred by the Trustee(s) present. The Chancellor, however, may approve the award of a degree outside of a commencement ceremony under special circumstances and with the approval of the Board.
- 3.6 The Board of Trustees may, in its discretion, award an honorary degree on its own initiative.

4.0 Criteria

- 4.1 The Criteria for awarding of honorary degrees is as follows:
 - 4.1.1 Honorary degrees may be awarded to recognize achievements in the advancement of knowledge, the arts, or the professions.
 - 4.1.2 Honorary Degrees may be awarded to recognize outstanding service, achievement, and the commitment to the common good.
 - 4.1.3 Honorary degrees may be awarded posthumously for those exceptional students who had completed a substantial portion of their degree program.
 - 4.1.4 Nominees must have demonstrated intellectual and humane values that are consistent with the aims of higher education, the College, the District, and with the highest ideals of the person's chosen fields.
 - 4.1.5 Service or benefit to the College or District do not in themselves justify the awarding of an honorary degree. Nothing in these criteria, however, shall preclude nominees who are benefactors of the Colleges or District.
 - 4.1.6 Honorary degrees may be awarded by the Board of Trustees based on other criteria as it deems appropriate in its discretion.

5.0 Prohibited Degrees

- 5.1 Honorary degrees shall not be awarded to:
 - 5.1.1 Incumbent members of the Board;

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- 5.1.2 The existing Chancellor of the District;
 - 5.1.3 The incumbent Presidents of the Colleges;
 - 5.1.4 A person who has already been awarded a degree by that particular College;
 - 5.1.5 Any incumbent elected officials.

LRCCD

Policy Adopted: 4/8/15

Policy Revised:

Policy Reviewed:

Adm. Regulation: None