HONORARY DEGREES

Reference: Education Code Sections 32380, 66020, 70902, 72122

The conferring of Honorary Degrees occurs annually in spring. Any Southwestern College District student or employee may nominate an individual for an Honorary Associate Degree. A nomination will consist of a one-page summary of the nominee's accomplishments and rationale for the conferral of the Honorary Degree. Honorary Degrees are not awarded to current Southwestern College District employees.

The Honorary Degree Committee shall be composed of the following:
- A member of the Southwestern College Governing Board
- The Superintendent/President
- An administrator appointed by the Superintendent/President
- The Southwestern College Academic Senate President
- Two faculty members appointed by the Academic Senate President

The Office of the President of the Academic Senate is responsible for soliciting nominations for Honorary Degree recipients of all staff and students. Nominations must be submitted to the Academic Senate President by February 15th.

The Honorary Degree Committee shall review the nominations based on the eligibility criteria for honorary degrees established in College District Policy No. 4110 BP, "Honorary Degrees," and may recommend up to three Honorary Degree recipients. The Academic Senate President will present the name(s) of the recommended recipient(s) to the Academic Senate and ask for an endorsement of the recipients. This endorsement is advisory and not binding to the Honorary Degree Committee.

The name(s) of recommended recipient(s) will then be forwarded to the Superintendent/President for inclusion on the April Governing Board agenda as an action item for approval. Once approved, the Superintendent/President will contact the individual(s) to invite them to the Commencement Ceremony for conferral of the degree. The Office of the Superintendent/President is responsible for addressing the logistical needs of the recipients, including providing regalia for the commencement ceremony.