

August 5, 2026

MEMO TO: Southern Illinois University Carbondale Campus Community
School of Medicine – Springfield Campus Community

FROM: Sarah VanVooren, Director of Events and Outreach
Honorary Degree & Distinguished Service Awards Committee

SUBJECT: Request for 2027 Nominations
Honorary Degree & Distinguished Service Awards

The ***Honorary Degree and Distinguished Service Awards Committee*** of SIU Carbondale requests your nominations for awards to be given at the May 2026 commencements. Although nominations are accepted at any time each year, the current **deadline** for receiving nomination letters from any source to the Committee is **Wednesday, October 14, 2026**. The Committee will begin its deliberations immediately following this date and will make its recommendations for 2026 awards.

An **Honorary Degree** at SIU Carbondale is reserved for outstanding scholarly contributors and for persons of considerable renown in any field of activity. If given for other than scholarly contribution, the honorary degree should be awarded only to those persons who have uniquely contributed to human well-being or whose accomplishments have resulted in marked benefit to society.

The **Distinguished Service Award** is reserved for persons who have contributed significantly to southern Illinois, to the state, and /or the university. No university employee shall be considered for the service award in the year of his/her retirement. However, this does not preclude consideration of an exceptionally qualified employee for an award at the time either before or after the year of retirement.

To be considered, all letters of nomination must be accompanied by a 2-3 page resume, or curriculum vita, and/or a biographical sketch (e.g. an entry in *Who's Who in America*) of the candidate that includes a description of the unique contributions of the nominee. The Committee may request additional supportive materials, such as letters of recommendation and copies of representative publications or works, after the initial submission of a nomination. Authoritatively appropriate validation of a nominee's stature should be as broadly substantive and comprehensive as feasible. Self-nominations are not accepted for consideration

Please direct all **inquiries** to the Director of Events and Outreach, Sarah VanVooren at svanvoo@siu.edu. Telephone: 618-453-3472. **Completed nominations** should be directed to the Committee Support Staff: Courtney Howell, Office of the Chancellor/Events and Outreach, Mail Code 6705, Anthony Hall 0015, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901. Telephone: 618-453-7437. Fax: 618-453-5860. courtneyc@siu.edu.