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Policy Name: Award Honorary Associate Degree **Policy Number:** B-9

Functional Area(s) Responsible: College President

Owner(s) of Policy: College President

Most Recent BOT Approval Date: September 2011

Most Recent Review Date: Spring 2023

Most Recent Review/Revision Type: ☒ none ☐ minor/non-substantive ☐ substantive/extensive

Policy Statement:

Finger Lakes Community College authorizes the awarding of honorary associate degrees to recognize individuals whose extraordinary achievements have set a standard that distinguishes them and benefits the College, the communities they serve, and society.

The purpose for awarding an honorary degree is:

1. To honor persons whose careers reflect sustained and superlative achievement in the arts and professions, research, scholarship, public service, leadership, volunteerism, and/or cultural affairs as well as new frontiers of human endeavor.
2. To advance the educational mission, goals, and programs of Finger Lakes Community College by developing associations with persons who exemplify the same ideals, values, and aspirations.
3. To inspire students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and members of the local, national, and world communities to emulate such standards of excellence, integrity, and commitment to enhance the public good.

Honorary Associate Degrees are Awarded in Five Different Areas:

1. Educational Service: recognizing outstanding service that enhances educational opportunities for the area or that gives personal assistance that leads to the success of individuals in higher education
2. Humanitarian Service: recognizing outstanding altruism that enhances the quality of life for the others in the area
3. Leadership: recognizing outstanding service that goes above and beyond the person's paid job description in an area of leadership that benefits others and/or enhances their leadership capabilities
4. Arts and Letters: recognizing outstanding contributions to the arts in any form that enhances the quality of life in the area
5. Entrepreneurial Leadership: recognizing outstanding contributions to business/industry through creative start- ups of new enterprises or through innovative management or business or industry

Honorary Associate Degree Criteria

An honorary degree is special and is awarded only in exceptional circumstances. Relatively few awards will be given by Finger Lakes Community College, and no more than two per year. No individual will be allowed to receive more than one honorary degree from the College.

Current faculty, staff and trustees are not eligible. Faculty, staff and trustees who have been separated from the College for at least five years are eligible. Currently elected and/or appointed public officials and current candidates and/or nominees for public elective and/or appointed offices within the State of New York are not eligible.

Current or potential benefactors of Finger Lakes Community College are eligible, if they meet the criteria outlined in this policy.

The degree awarded will be awarded at the associate degree level.

The Board of Trustees must approve any nominee for the honorary degree.

Reason(s) for Policy:

To recognize individuals whose extraordinary achievements have set a standard that distinguishes them and benefits the College and the communities they serve.

Applicability of Policy:

All members of the College community should be familiar with this policy.

Definitions:

None

Related Documents:

None

Procedures:

The following will be considered in the selection of nominees for the conferring of honorary associate degrees:

1. The nominee should be considered outstanding in his or her field and should be held in high esteem among those of the same profession.

2. The nominee should have given extraordinary service to the College or to the community (local, state, and national).

3. In every instance, the conferring of an honorary associate degree will be an acknowledgement and recognition of a history of loyalty to and support of the goals and objectives of the College on the part of the individual so honored.

4. In absentia and posthumous honorary associate degrees shall be made only in exceptional circumstances.

Nominations will be solicited from all sources but must be submitted through the Finger Lakes Community College Foundation.

A committee comprised of the President, Chief Advancement Officer, Executive Director of the Foundation, representative of Faculty Senate, representative of College Council, a Foundation Board Member, and a Trustee will review nominations and make a recommendation to the College's Board of Trustees.

All deliberations will be confidential. The committee will use intense scrutiny of a nominee to ensure continued integrity of the award process. The honorary degree will be awarded at the College's Commencement ceremony.

Forms/Online Processes:
None

Appendix:
None