Fennville Public Schools

Distinguished Alumni Program

In order to recognize and inspire excellence at Fennville Public Schools, the *Distinguished Alumni* program honors truly outstanding graduates of Fennville High School. To be eligible for recognition as a *Distinguished Alumnus*, a graduate will have demonstrated true excellence in an achievement, a series of achievements, or over a career. Recognition as a *Distinguished Alumnus* is the highest honor Fennville Public Schools bestows upon a graduate.

Nomination Process

Nomination forms are available on the District website as well as in the high school office and Central Office. Completed forms may be submitted at any time. Nominations must be received before March 31 to be considered in that year's selection process. Posthumous nominations are accepted.

The selection committee reserves the right to consider a nomination for up to three years. The committee will choose no more than two *Distinguished Alumni* any year, and is not required to choose any of the nominees should the review, rank, and vote process not elevate a nominee to such status.

Selection Committee

The membership of the selection committee will meet once annually and review all nominations to determine if any nominee or nominees will receive *Distinguished Alumni* status.

The selection committee shall include the following:

- High School Principal, who will serve as Committee Chairperson
- President of the Board of Education, or a chosen designee from the board
- President of the Alumni Association, or a chosen designee from the association
- President of the Fennville Educational Foundation, or a chosen designee from the foundation
- Current High School Faculty Member
- Retired High School Faculty Member, as chosen by the Alumni Association
- One additional member selected by the Alumni Association

A nominee will be selected for *Distinguished Alumni* recognition when it is determined he or she has met all of the eligibility requirements, five out of seven members of the committee cast a yes vote for such recognition, and the nominee is one of the top two vote recipients in the annual selection committee meeting.

General Criteria

- Graduate of Fennville High School of ten or more years from graduation date of current senior class
- Demonstrated personal characteristics of character, leadership, service, and citizenship
- Demonstrated true and sustained distinction in a category of nomination over a period of time

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Categories for Nomination:

The submission of a name for consideration will be made in one of eight categories. Nominees in these categories must have demonstrated high levels of achievement, award recognition, and/or significant contributions in their field, including (but not limited to) information provided as guidance in each category.

1. **Science, Medicine, and Technology**—graduates who distinguished themselves with high regard or distinction through important medical accomplishments, the development of procedures, products, processes or research findings that benefit lives and/or communities, and/or make a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in a scientific, medical, or technology field.
2. **Business, Industry, and Professional**—graduates who are recognized, respected, influential leaders in business and/or industry, banking, scholarship, education, or the practice of law.
3. **Arts and Entertainment**—graduates who are established, well-known, or frequently published creators and/or performers of art, winners of significant awards or accolades in a field of art or entertainment, influential critics, or leaders and/or cultivators in the art or entertainment communities beyond the immediate environment of where that person lives and works.
4. **Humanitarian and Service**—graduates who have provided consistent and significant service to the local, state, national, or world communities in a way that exhibits integrity and a commitment to the interest of bettering the lives of others.
5. **Career or Military Service Distinction**—graduates who have demonstrated/attained prominence through his or her sustained effort and/or other worthy endeavors that form a record of accomplishment impressive to the citizens of Fennville.
6. **Athletics**—graduates who are standouts in a sport or sport-related career after high school beyond the immediate environment of where that person lives and works, such as all-American status, competing as an Olympian or professional athlete, or as a renowned or especially successful coach, sport specialist, promoter, or trainer.
7. **Breaking Boundaries**—graduates whose attainment of distinction includes having had to overcome significant personal, community, or cultural challenges, and/or who serve as examples of pioneers in their achievements as representatives of a historically underserved or underrepresented community.
8. **Lifetime Recognition**—graduates who may not have attained *Distinguished Alumni* status in another category, but whose life demonstrates extraordinary moral character and dignity

The Distinguished Alumni Program is a cooperative effort between Fennville Public Schools, the Fennville Educational Foundation, and the Fennville Alumni Association.

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Guidelines

Chairperson Responsibilities:

A. Correspond with each nominee and nominator twice: once before selection meeting to acknowledge the nomination/congratulate the nominee, then once after the selection meeting to provide a status update;
B. Chair selection process meeting;
C. Serve as or select designee to serve as media contact;
D. Present *Distinguished Alumni* Recognition Award at public event/ceremony;
E. All other duties necessary to ensure the successful implementation and execution of program.

Selection Process:

Stage 1: the chairperson will review selection criteria and goals of the *Distinguished Alumni* program, then open the floor to members of the committee to propose potential candidates from among the nominations to receive *Distinguished Alumni* Recognition Award. All proposed names must be seconded and voted upon by the members of the committee. Committee members may vote for as many candidates as they feel are deserving of the award, provided the candidate has been proposed and seconded. Any candidate proposed who receives four (4) yes votes will become a finalist in the selection process. There is no limit to the number of nominees who may become finalists.

Stage 2: the chairperson will then lead discussion of the nomination packet for each finalist, and conduct a second round of voting. Nominees who receive five or more votes are eligible for final consideration to receive the *Distinguished Alumni* Recognition Award. If no finalists receive five (5) or more votes, then nobody will be selected to receive the award that year. If there are two (2) finalists or one (1) finalist who receive five or more votes, then that finalist or those finalists will both receive the award.

Stage 3: (if needed). If three (3) or more finalists receive five or more votes, then a second vote will take place, and each committee member will rank the finalists, with the first choice receiving the largest number. For example, if there are four finalists, each committee member's first choice is to be given a 4, the second choice a 3, and so on. The two finalists receiving the highest sum when all votes are added together will be selected that year to receive the *Distinguished Alumni* Recognition Award. If there is a tie resulting in three or more finalists with the same highest sum, then this stage is repeated until two or fewer nominees have been elected to receive the *Distinguished Alumni* Recognition Award.