

HONORARY DEGREE POLICY

Adopted May 17, 2006

The MnSCU Board of Trustees grants to each college and university the authority to award honorary degrees. The decision to use such authority shall be determined by the college provost.

A college or university choosing to award an honorary degree shall establish its own internal process for determining honorary degree recipients. This process is to include appropriate consultation and must involve faculty and other members of the college community. Hibbing Community College's Academic Affairs Standards Council (AASC) is the committee that will be a part of the honorary degree process; this committee should and does contain a majority of faculty members.

Colleges may select from the following categories of honorary degrees based upon the intended recipient's field(s) of contributions, achievement, service, and distinction:

Associate of Arts
Associate of Science
Associate of Applied Science

RATIONALE:

Honorary degrees shall be bestowed to recognize and honor exceptional men and women who have given a substantial part of their lives to serving others and/or who have distinguished themselves; to establish a public association between Hibbing Community College and such exceptional men and women, thereby providing testimony to the values and quality of the community colleges; to assist the community college with the goals and objectives of its educational programming, service missions, and institutional advancement objectives.

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION:

Following are commonly used criteria for selecting honorary degree recipients at colleges and universities (intended as guidelines):

- Eminent contribution to the college, the system, the community, the state or society;
- Eminent achievement in a particular field of endeavor;
- Personal status that will enhance the reputation of the college, or system, and serve as an example to its students and alumni;
- Potential for contribution to the goals or welfare of the college;
- While recipients may be alumni, former employees, former Board of Trustees members, or public officials, they may not be (at the time of the award) current employees, incumbent members of the Board of Trustees, or incumbent officials of federal, state or local government.

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREES:

Honorary degrees normally will be given during commencement exercises, and the recipient (or a representative of the family) should agree to be present.

LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF HONORARY DEGREES:

It is expected that HCC would grant no more than two honorary degrees per academic year.