

# SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

## Policy Manual

**SUBJECT:** Honorary Doctorate Degrees

**NUMBER:** 2:18

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### 1. Purpose

The honorary doctorate degree is the highest honor bestowed by the Board of Regents and the universities. The purpose is to pay tribute to worthy individuals and at the same time enhance the universities by such action. The degree is not equivalent to or a replacement for an earned degree.

### 2. Eligibility

Substantial evidence of outstanding achievement must be presented. Careful distinction must be made between the extraordinary effort of talented, selfless and energetic individuals who have performed beyond the call of duty in service to humankind, in contrast to fulfilling normal expectations in service, employment, or professional requirements (including longevity).

The recipient must be present at the convocation at which the degree is conferred.

- A. An honorary doctorate degree may be granted to an individual who has:
1. Achieved distinction in his/her profession; and/or
  2. Rendered outstanding contribution or service to the people of South Dakota; and/or
  3. Made a recognized scholarly or service contribution as a regional, national, or international figure.
- B. Honorary doctorate degrees may not be awarded to the following public officers or employees during their terms of public service:

1. Faculty members and administrators of a Regental university or special school;
2. Regents or other officers of the State of South Dakota;
3. Holders of federal office as a representative of South Dakota.

### **3. Types of Honorary Doctorate Degrees**

Institutional mission and complement of programs determine the types of honorary doctorate degrees that may be awarded. Honorary doctorate degrees may be selected from the following:

- A. Doctor of Humane Letters;
- B. Doctor of Laws;
- C. Doctor of Letters and Literature;
- D. Doctor of Public Service;
- E. Doctor of Science.

### **4. Approval Process**

- A. The Board of Regents approves honorary doctorate degrees recommended by the universities;
- B. Each university shall establish a process for consideration of nominations for honorary doctorate degrees. Significant changes to that process will be reported to the Executive Director who will notify the Board;
- C. Recommendations from the universities are submitted to the Board of Regents prior to the commencement at which the degree is conferred;
- D. The Board of Regents may award honorary doctorate degrees on its own behalf.

### **5. Exceptions**

Exceptions must be approved by the Board of Regents or by the Executive Director if circumstances arise.

**SOURCE: BOR, October 1998.**