



Honorary Members of the Association of Rice Alumni Guidelines

As noted in Article II, Section 3 of the Association of Rice Alumni (ARA) Constitution:

Honorary Members are individuals who have rendered distinguished service or extraordinary devotion to the University, the Association, or its programs. Such individuals may be elected Honorary Members by the Association of Rice Alumni board of directors ("the Board") at any meeting of the Association upon recommendation for such action and approval by the Board.

This honor is reserved only for exceptional Rice University "friends" and supporters for whom other honors and awards would not be fitting given their dedication and devotion to Rice and who do not qualify as Rice alumni. Rice Alumni (individuals who have attended Rice for at least two semesters) are not eligible for the award.

Nominations Process

Rice alumni, students, faculty and staff may nominate individuals to be named an honorary member of the ARA, following the procedures below:

1. The nominator will discuss the nomination with the current Executive Director (AVP) and current ARA President. With the support and approval of the Executive Director and ARA President, the nominator is responsible for procuring letters in support of the nomination.
2. In order to be considered for the honor, nominees must have one letter of nomination and at least two letters of support. This is in keeping with the Laureates Awards nominations guidelines.
3. The ARA President will bring the Honorary Alumna/us nomination to the Laureates Committee for consideration. Honorary Alumna/us awards will be considered by the Laureates Committee at least three weeks prior to the next forthcoming ARA Board meeting, unless extenuating circumstances exist (e.g. concerns regarding an Honorary Alumnus's health may lead to expediting the nominations process), in which case the Executive Committee will be notified (see number 5).
4. The Laureates Committee will review nomination letters and make a recommendation to the ARA Board whether the nominee should be further considered for the honor.
5. The ARA Board will vote to approve or deny the motion (either at one of the three annual meetings or electronically via email). In the event of an expedited circumstance (e.g. concerns regarding the health of an Honorary Alumna/us), the ARA Executive Committee will exercise its function as an intermediary of the ARA Board and will vote to approve or deny the motion. The full ARA Board will be notified of this decision prior to the notification of the honoree.

6. Individuals named as Honorary Alumni of Rice University will be recognized at the Laureates Awards presentation, and presented with a framed certificate acknowledging their Honorary Alumna/us Award. In the event of an expedited circumstance (e.g. concerns regarding the health of an Honorary Alumnus) the award may be presented by a designated representative of the ARA at an earlier or later date.
7. The Honorary Alumnus Award is reserved for exceptional friends and supporters of Rice University, and should only be awarded to those individuals who have truly gone above and beyond to support Rice University over the course of many years. No other honor bestowed by the ARA would be fitting for such individuals. It is reserved for individuals who have not satisfied the criteria to become Rice Alumni (attending the university for at least two semesters).

The Laureates Committee and the ARA Board of Directors are charged with closely examining each Honorary Alumnus Nominee, and thoughtfully considering which nominees are best suited for this very special honor. It is strongly encouraged that the designation of the Honorary Alumnus Award on Rice faculty and staff be considered only after a faculty or staff member is no longer employed by Rice University. Staff and faculty qualify for this honor only if their support and service contributions are widely outside the realm of their professional responsibilities.

Past Honorary Members

The ARA has bestowed eleven individuals with honorary memberships:

1984 - Marion Hicks
Marty Vest
1988 - Linda McReynolds
2005 - Stephanie Sick
2006 - Ralph O'Connor
2007 - Wayne Graham
Eric Johnson
2009 - Rose Sundin
2010 - Mark Davis
2014 - Jennifer Harding
2015 - S. Malcolm Gillis