



## **Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges**

Meeting Date: **June 11, 2026**

Agenda Item: **2.3**

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

Committee: **Academic & Personnel Committee**

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Action Item: **Merge Policies 4500 and 4510 - Distinguished Service Awards and Honorary Degrees**

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Board Policy 4500 -Distinguished Service Awards and Board Policy 4510 -Honorary Degrees both reference honors given during graduation exercises. For clarity, these policies have been merged into a single policy, Board Policy 4500- Distinguished Service Awards and Honorary Degrees. Because the language from Board Policy 4510 will be fully contained within Board Policy 4500, we recommend Policy 4510 be deleted.

The System Office recommends approval of the merger of Policy 4500 and Policy 4510 - Distinguished Service Awards and Honorary Degrees.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Board Policy 4500
- Board Policy 4510

# Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

## Academics

POLICY  
NAME:

~~Distinguished Service Awards~~ Distinguished Service Awards  
and Honorary Degrees

POLICY  
NUMBER:

4500

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### A. PURPOSE

To establish the general requirements by which the Nebraska State Colleges may confer a distinguished service award and to establish the expectations and criteria for the Nebraska State Colleges to award an honorary doctorate degree.

### B. DEFINITIONS

None

### C. POLICY

#### 1. Distinguished Service Award Requirements

- 1.1. The Colleges may confer a distinguished service award upon an outstanding person who, or organization that, has made a significant contribution to a College or to an alumnus who has achieved distinction and recognition which reflects favorably upon the image of the System and/or College.
- 1.2. The President must submit recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards to the Chancellor at least one (1) month prior to the meeting at which Board approval will be requested.
- 1.3. Each College shall develop criteria and procedures for the conferral of such awards.

#### 2. Honorary Degree General Policies

- 2.1. An honorary doctorate degree may be awarded by the Board upon recommendation of the Chancellor and President.
- 2.2. The following honorary degrees may be granted:
  - Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.);
  - Doctor of Pedagogy (Ped.D.);

- Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.);
  - Doctor of Science (Sc.D.); and
  - Doctor of Laws (L.L.D.).
- 2.3. The President shall, in consultation with a College committee composed of faculty, students and administration designated by the President, select the College nominees for the honorary degrees.
- 2.4. The President will forward the nominees to the Chancellor at least one (1) month prior to the meeting at which Board approval will be requested.
- 2.5. Nominees are to be approved by the Board prior to their notification and selection.
- 2.6. The award shall be made during graduation exercises.

### **3. Honorary Degree Award Criteria**

- 3.1. The purpose of the degree is to honor and offer academic recognition to individuals who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary achievements in their professions, scholarship, civic engagement, or creative activities; exceptional acts of philanthropy; or significant contributions to the welfare and/or development of society.
- 3.2. Preference shall be given to nominations of persons who are connected in some significant way with the state or the College, although a connection is not a pre-requisite to an honorary degree.
- 3.3. The degree should be awarded in honor of extraordinary achievement over an entire career rather than to honor a single achievement.
- 3.4. No degree shall be solely conferred in consideration of the payment of money or other valuable items or materials.
- 3.5. Candidates cannot be current employees.
- 3.6. An honorary degree may not be given posthumously.

## **FORMS/APPENDICES**

None

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### **SOURCE:**

**Policy Adopted:** January 1977

**Policy Revised:** October 1983, June 1993, June 1998, January 2013, March 2022, June 2026

# Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

## Academics

POLICY NAME: ~~Honorary Degrees~~

POLICY NUMBER: ~~4510~~

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### A. PURPOSE

~~To establish the expectations and criteria for the Nebraska State Colleges to award an honorary doctorate degree.~~

### B. DEFINITIONS

~~None~~

### C. POLICY

#### 1. General Policies

- ~~1.1. An honorary doctorate degree may be awarded by the Board upon recommendadtion of the Chancellor and President.~~
- ~~1.2. The following honorary degrees may be granted:
  - ~~• Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.);~~
  - ~~• Doctor of Pedagogy (Ped.D.);~~
  - ~~• Doctor of Letters (Litt.D.);~~
  - ~~• Doctor of Science (Sc.D.); and~~
  - ~~• Docgtor of Laws (L.L.D.).~~~~
- ~~1.3. The President shall, in consultation with a College committee composed of faculty, students and administration designated by the President, select the College nominees for the honorary degrees.~~
- ~~1.4. The President will forward the nominees to the Chancellor at least one (1) month prior to the meeting at which Board approval will be requested.~~
- ~~1.5. Nominees are to be approved by the Board prior to their notification and selection.~~
- ~~1.6. The award shall be made during graduation exercises.~~

## ~~2. Award Criteria~~

- ~~2.1. — The purpose of the degree is to honor and offer academic recognition to individuals who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary achievements in their professions, scholarship, civic engagement, or creative activities; exceptional acts of philanthropy; or significant contributions to the welfare and/or development of society.~~
- ~~2.2. — Preference shall be given to nominations of persons who are connected in some significant way with the state or the College, although a connection is not a pre-requisite to an honorary degree.~~
- ~~2.3. — The degree should be awarded in honor of extraordinary achievement over an entire career rather than to honor a single achievement.~~
- ~~2.4. — No degree shall be solely conferred in consideration of the payment of money or other valuable items or materials.~~
- ~~2.5. — Candidates cannot be current employees.~~
- ~~2.6. — An honorary degree may not be given posthumously.~~

## **FORMS/APPENDICES**

None

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**SOURCE:** —

**Policy Adopted:** September 1983

**Policy Revised:** June 1993, January 2013, March 2015, March 2022