

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

GUIDELINES FOR HONORING AND RECOGNIZING
DISTINCTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY

Western Carolina University has for many years honored individuals whose distinction, achievements, or contributions to the institution have been outstanding. This practice is conducted through several programs designed to recognize and/or commemorate outstanding members of the university administration, faculty, and staff and individuals from the general public.

University level honors fall into two general categories:

- I. NAME DESIGNATION FOR FACILITIES, ACADEMIC UNITS, AND ENDOWED FUNDS
- II. AWARDS/HONORS FOR ACHIEVEMENT, SERVICE OR SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY

I. NAME DESIGNATION FOR FACILITIES, ACADEMIC UNITS, AND ENDOWED FUNDS

The Western Carolina University Board of Trustees has a long-standing practice of naming facilities to honor individuals whose service and/or contributions to the institution have been exceptional. In recent years the Board expanded this practice to include naming academic units and endowed funds.

General guidelines for this program are outlined in the Board of Trustees “Guidelines for Naming University Facilities, Academic Units, and Endowed Funds”. The purpose of this program is to honor individuals and families “for outstanding achievement and/or extraordinary services or contributions to the institution or to society in general.”

The range of size and prominence of campus facilities, identifiable physical spaces, academic units, programs, and endowed funds provide possibilities for honors at various levels. In the process of determining a facility, unit, space, or fund for naming, consideration should be given to identify the possibilities most appropriate for the qualifications of the potential honoree.

A member or members of the University faculty, staff, or student body may be recognized for exceptional service to the University, higher education, and/or the people of North Carolina by the naming of appropriate University spaces upon approval of the Chancellor and Board of Trustees. Such recognition may occur following the honoree’s retirement from, completion of employment with, or enrollment in the University, and may not occur while the honoree is serving in an elective local, state, or federal government office.

The University’s desire to recognize private philanthropy is paramount, and the naming of spaces for faculty, staff and/or students should not jeopardize opportunities to name prominent spaces in honor of substantial philanthropic contributions to the University, its Foundation, or Endowment as otherwise provided in these guidelines.

Opportunities for named designation of facilities, academic units, and endowed funds are outlined in the attachment “GUIDELINES FOR NAMING FACILITIES, ACADEMIC UNITS, AND ENDOWED FUNDS.”

II. AWARDS/HONORS FOR ACHIEVEMENT, SERVICE, OR SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Both the Board of Trustees and the University have established honors in this category. The Board of Trustees confers the “Trustees’ Award” upon selected individuals to recognize exemplary service or support to the university. It was established to convey an “expression of gratitude and appreciation by the Board of Trustees of Western Carolina University.” Procedures for the award were adopted when it was initiated in 1988.

Western Carolina University confers other special university level awards for faculty, staff, and academic and administrative units. They are:

- Board of Governors’ Award for Excellence in Teaching
- Collaborative Education Experience Award
- Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award
- Honorary Doctorate Award
- Judy H. Dowell Outstanding Support Staff Award
- Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award
- Program of Excellence Award
- Integration of Learning Award
- University Scholar Award

The University and the Alumni Association also confer four awards to individuals whose personal achievements and/or service to Western are particularly noteworthy. They are:

- Alumni Professional Achievement Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Professional and Academic Achievement Award
- Young Alumnus Award

Additionally, the University observes the tradition of designating retired faculty as professors emeriti. The list of emeriti faculty is included in the general university catalog.