

## **TITLE: HONORARY DEGREES**

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

Red Deer College recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of social, cultural, or economic development that have had an important impact on Red Deer College and/or the Central Alberta Region by awarding honorary degrees. Honorary degrees may also be awarded to individuals whose advancement of social, cultural, or economic development nationally or internationally is especially congruent with the values and goals of Red Deer College. Recipients exhibit outstanding leadership, innovation, and/or collaboration in achieving their accomplishments.

### **PURPOSE:**

This policy provides a framework and criteria for awarding of Honorary Degree recipients at Red Deer College.

### **SCOPE:**

This policy applies to all nominations for and conferring of Honorary Degrees at Red Deer College.

### **PRINCIPLES:**

The Honorary Degree is awarded to individuals whose accomplishments locally, nationally, or internationally qualify them for such recognition. The award honours outstanding achievement in diverse fields, including:

- Technology management
- Applied science
- Applied research
- Health Sciences
- Trades or Technology
- Manufacturing
- Education
- Environment management
- Arts and humanities
- Public Service
- Social Sciences
- Performing and visual arts
- Business innovation and entrepreneurship
- Human services
- Human rights

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Honorary Degree** – An award conferred on an individual as a way to honour the contributions they have made to the College, the Central Alberta region, the nation, or society in general.

**College community** – All students, staff, and volunteers of the College.

### **GUIDELINES:**

1. The College may award more than one honorary degree per year. These awards need not be granted each year.
2. The credential awarded is an Honorary Bachelor Degree.

3. The recognition of individuals and their achievements through the conferring of honorary degrees must reflect positively on Red Deer College.
4. Recipients of the honorary degree are members of the general public which may include alumni, former faculty or staff, former members of the Board of Governors, former public officials, or former private sector partners. They may not be current faculty or staff, current members of the Board of Governors, or current officials (elected, appointed, or senior employees) of the municipal, provincial, or federal government. An association with Red Deer College is highly desirable but not required.
5. An honorary degree is conferred on an individual only once.
6. Honorary degrees are presented at Convocation.
7. Confidentiality is maintained throughout the nomination and selection process.
8. Recommended nominees meet one or more of the criteria listed below. The individual has:
  - a. Made a significant contribution to the College, post-secondary education, the community, or society in general;
  - b. Achieved noted accomplishments in a particular field of study or applied learning;
  - c. Enhanced or promoted the College's image and reputation in Alberta and elsewhere; and/or
  - d. Achieved a significant and positive reputation so that their connection to the College through this award will enhance the reputation of the College and serve as an example to its students and alumni.
9. The Nomination Committee develops a final ranking of candidates and makes recommendations on the suitability of candidates to the President who selects the final award recipient(s).

#### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Nominations for an honorary degree are submitted to the President's office by members of the College community. The procedure for submitting nominations is announced annually. Nomination forms are available from the President's Office. Nominations from outside RDC are also accepted for consideration by the Nomination Committee.
2. Nominations for an honorary degree are accepted any time and close yearly on the specified date in January. All nominations are kept on file for five years and are reviewed each year.
3. Each year, the President appoints a Nomination Committee that reviews the nominations, ranks the candidates, and makes recommendations on the suitability of the candidates to the President.
4. The Committee is composed of at least one academic staff member from Academic Council, one student from Academic Council, one member from Deans' Council, and one member from Service Council. The Nomination Committee meets annually.
5. The President selects the award recipient(s) based on the recommendation of the Committee and presents the selected recipient(s)' name(s) to the Board of Governors at its February meeting.

6. The approval of the recipient(s) by the Board of Governors is made by consensus maintaining confidentiality throughout the process.
7. The President notifies the recipient(s) and invites them to attend the appropriate Convocation ceremony to receive the honorary degree.
8. The honorary degree is awarded at Convocation by the Chair of the Board of Governors.

**OFFICER RESPONSIBLE:** Executive Director Board and Corporate Relations

**RECOMMENDING AUTHORITY:** Deans' Council

**CONSULTATION FOR REVIEW:** Academic Council, Deans' Council

**POLICY REVIEW DATE:** October 2018

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 1, 2013

**REVISION HISTORY:** N/A

**RELATED POLICIES:**

**CONNECTION TO BOARD POLICIES:**

All RDC policies support relevant Board of Governors operational policies.