



**The Association of Former Students  
and  
Texas A&M University**

**Distinguished Alumnus Award**

The true measure of a university's greatness can be found in the achievements of its alumni and alumnae. Texas A&M University is globally known to develop leaders in many fields of endeavor. A vast number of the University's alumni and alumnae have gained unique distinction through success in their professions, service to the University, and contribution to their communities. The University and The Association of Former Students established the Distinguished Alumnus Award program in 1962 to honor outstanding former students and to celebrate their achievements.

**Purpose and Philosophy**

The purpose of the Distinguished Alumnus program is to recognize the University's alumni and alumnae who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the legacy of excellence at the University.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award does more than honor its recipients. It also further illustrates the great value of the academic programs and student involvement at Texas A&M and increases the pride all former students, students, staff and faculty have for the University. The award program recognizes those men and women who demonstrate the power of the Aggie experience to the people of Texas, the nation, and the world.

**Criteria for Selection**

Recipients will be accomplished in the three distinct areas as outlined below. This distinction will be reflective of Texas A&M University's core values – Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect and Selfless Service. The three areas are:

- **Professional Achievement and Career or Military Service Distinction:** The recipient attained prominence through his or her efforts in commerce, industry, technology, the professions, agriculture, the arts, education, government, military or other worthy endeavors that form a record of accomplishment impressive to the citizens of Texas and the nation.
- **Service to Society:** The recipient exhibits integrity and a demonstrated commitment to service through an interest in bettering the lives of others through volunteer efforts.
- **Service and Support to Texas A&M University:** The recipient's deeds and actions reflect the importance of his or her educational training, pride in alma mater and loyalty to Texas A&M, as demonstrated through their interest in and support of the University, The Association of Former Students and their programs.

### Eligible Nominees

Eligible nominees will have been enrolled in a regular course of study at Texas A&M. Former students employed by the University, The Association of Former Students, the 12th Man Foundation, or the Texas A&M Foundation are not eligible during their term of employment. Members of The Association Board of Directors are not eligible during their term of service. Former students may be nominated posthumously.

These awards are given for outstanding achievement and no compromises diminishing the significance of the awards will be made.

### Method of Nomination

Nominations may be made for a Distinguished Alumnus Award by any of the following individuals or groups excluding noted exceptions below:

- Any member of The Association of Former Students or its affiliate organizations, i.e. an A&M Club or Class
- Any member of the University administration, faculty or staff
- Any member of an affiliate or support organization of the University
- Any Texas A&M former student
- Any friend of Texas A&M
- Noted Exception - The University President, the Texas A&M Foundation President, the 12th Man Foundation President, and The Association of Former Students' President and CEO, Board of Directors and Executive Staff may not nominate an individual.

Nominations will be accepted using the following guidelines:

1. The Association of Former Students provides an Award Nomination Form online at <http://www.aggienetwork.com/distinguishedalumni>
2. In addition to completing and submitting the Award Nomination Form (**required**), nominators are encouraged to provide supporting items that further distinguish the nominee. Such items include, but are not limited to:
  - Letter of nomination written by the nominator (**Required**)
  - Up to three letters of support (with only one being from a family member) that specifically address the criteria. Letters of support will not be accepted from the Texas A&M University President, the Texas A&M Foundation President, the 12th Man Foundation President and CEO, and The Association of Former Students' President and CEO (**Required**)
  - Current biography or curriculum vitae for the individual (**Required**)
  - Newspaper and magazine articles
  - Personal stories
  - Award or certificates of achievement
  - Other items of interest
3. One nomination per individual will be considered.
4. Nomination forms will be held for each individual for a period of five years. If an individual is not selected for the award, his or her nomination form may be updated and renewed by the original or other appropriate nominator for consideration in a subsequent year.
5. No limitation will be placed on the total number of nominations accepted for consideration.
6. The name of the nominator will not be disclosed.

### **Method of Award Recipient Selection**

The Association of Former Students will use the following guidelines for the Award Recipient Selection:

- The Chair of The Association will appoint five former students and the University President will appoint four faculty members to an anonymous Selection Committee. At least one of the Selection Committee members appointed by The Association Chair must have served the previous year.
- The Association will collect submitted nominations which will be reviewed and validated.
- The Association will submit the nominations to the committee in advance of the Selection Committee meeting.
- Up to twelve recipients may be selected annually. The Association Board of Directors must approve additional recipients. A Board member must recuse themselves if an individual they have written a letter of support for is presented to the Board for approval.

### **Announcement and Recognition**

The Association of Former Students will announce honorees annually through various methods and honor each recipient with the appropriate recognition.