

La Porte Independent School District

Distinguished Alumni/Citizens Awards Program Bylaws

October 2017

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI & DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS AWARDS PROGRAM

Organization: Established in September 2017 by the La Porte Independent School District superintendent of schools.

Purpose: To recognize and honor graduates, former employees and trustees of the La Porte Independent School District and community members whose achievements, strength of character, and citizenship serve as models to inspire and challenge today's students. The Distinguished Alumni/Citizens Awards Committee (Awards Committee) shall establish the highest standards in conferring these awards.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI/CITIZENS AWARDS COMMITTEE

- The Awards Committee will be a standing committee of 18 members, with terms beginning in September of each year.
- Members of the committee will include district and campus, business and industry, and community representatives, as follows:
 - the superintendent of schools (permanent ex officio position)
 - deputy superintendent (permanent ex officio position)
 - director of communications (permanent ex officio position)
 - LPISD webmaster (permanent ex officio position)
 - two (2) LPISD Board of Trustees members (three-year term)
 - deputy superintendent (three-year term)
 - one (1) elementary principal (three-year term)
 - one (1) secondary principal (three-year term)
 - one (1) elementary school teacher (three-year term)
 - one (1) secondary school teacher (three-year term)
 - three (3) business and industry representatives (three-year terms)
 - three (3) community members (three-year terms)
 - two (2) La Porte High School students (one-year term)

- After serving designated term, members will rotate off the committee.
- Of the new members selected each year, the district shall name the student members, and the remainder shall be named by the committee.
- A member will remain off the committee for at least three years before being eligible to be renamed to the committee.
- La Porte Independent School District shall maintain all records or files and act as archivist for the Awards Program.

AWARDS NOMINATING PROCEDURE

- Any person other than a member of the Awards Committee may submit nominations for an award.
- Submission of the completed Nomination Form provided by the Awards Committee is required.
- Nominations may begin on the day following the most recent awards presentation and continue through the announced deadline for new nominations.

ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS

- The Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Citizens awards are one-time honors; therefore, previous award recipients (in the same category) are not eligible.
- Current members of the Awards Committee or their relatives are not eligible for consideration.
- No person will be chosen for either award while a candidate for an elected public office or current elected public office holder in the year of the award.
- Awards may be given posthumously.

Distinguished Alumni Award

- Open to any individual who (1) graduated from La Porte High School, Viola DeWalt High School or George Washington Carver High School no fewer than 10 years prior to the nomination; (2) was employed by the District*; or (3) was a trustee of the La Porte ISD Board of Trustees.

** Includes La Porte ISD and George Washington Carver High School*

- Awards for alumni will be given for achievement in various fields of service which include, but are not limited to, the arts, athletics, business, education, entertainment, law, medicine, the military, music, philanthropy, politics, public service, religion, scholarship and science.

Distinguished Citizen Award

- The recipient must be a resident or work within La Porte ISD, or have made a significant impact on La Porte ISD; and
- must be distinguished in his or her business, profession, life work or other worthy endeavor; and
- must be an individual of such integrity, stature and demonstrated ability that the award will reflect honor on the school district and create a sense of pride among the members of the community.

AWARDS SELECTION PROCESS

- The Awards Committee shall receive and review each nomination. Award designees shall then be selected by secret balloting of the Awards Committee. No fewer than ten Awards Committee members shall be present for this selection. Proxies shall be permitted only to student members absent on school business, or for illness or emergencies.
- No more than three Distinguished Alumni Awards or Distinguished Citizen Awards (six awards total) shall be given in any one year. ** In the 2017-18 inaugural year of awards, the number of honorees may be determined by the La Porte ISD Board of Trustees, subject and subsequent to a recommendation from the Awards Committee.*
- Each member of the Awards Committee will rank candidates by number, with the number *five* designating the first choice; *four* designating the second choice; and so on. Final selections will be determined by a tally of points.
- Individuals nominated for an award and *not chosen* will continue to be eligible for two years following the initial nomination.
- The Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all nominations.

NOTIFICATION AND RECEIPT OF AN AWARD

- Each award designee shall receive a letter signed by the superintendent informing the designee of his or her selection.
- The award must be accepted in person, except in the event of extenuating circumstances. The Awards Committee will make the final determination in such a case, and may postpone recognizing the honoree until the following year.
- Posthumous awards shall be accepted by a member of the designee's immediate family or by a person deemed acceptable to the Awards Committee.
- If one of the honorees is unable to attend the awards ceremony, a replacement may be selected at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI/CITIZENS AWARDS CEREMONY

- The awards ceremony shall be held in the fall of each year on a date and at a place determined by the administration of the district.
- The form of the award shall be determined by the administration of the district.

HALL OF HONOR FOR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI/CITIZENS

- Pictures and pertinent information concerning all award recipients shall be enshrined in a hall of honor.
- Enshrinement location and format shall be determined by the administration of the district.

AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Awards Committee.