

Distinguished Alumni Award

The true measure of an educational institution greatness can be found in the achievements of its alumni and alumnae. A vast number of Redlands Community College's alumni have gained unique distinction through success in their professions, service to the College, and contribution to their communities. The College along with the RCC Alumni & Friends Association and Foundation established the Distinguished Alumni Award program to honor outstanding former students who have completed a minimum of 40 credit hours or completed their associate degree and to celebrate their achievements. Three Recipients will be selected each year; 30 – 45 age group, 46 – 60 age group, 61 and above.

Purpose and Philosophy

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

The Distinguished Alumni Award does more than honor its recipients. It also further illustrates the great value of the academic programs and student involvement at Redlands Community College and increases the pride all former students, current students, staff and faculty have for the College. The award program recognizes those men and women who demonstrate the Redlands Community College mission statement in which we provide a learner-centered environment committed to academic excellence strengthened through service and civic engagement.

Criteria for Selection

Former students are nominated to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award. Recipients may be accomplished in the following three distinct areas:

- **Career Distinction:** The recipient is recognized as outstanding or exceptional within his or her career, field or industry, with endeavors that form a record of accomplishment impressive to the citizens of Oklahoma and the nation. This distinction is reflective of Redlands Community College's core values – leadership, scholarship and service.
- **Service to Community:** 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 Redlands Community College:** The recipient's deeds and actions reflect the importance of his or her educational training, pride in alma mater and loyalty to Redlands Community College, as demonstrated through their interest in and support of the College and its programs.

Eligible Nominees

Eligible nominees will have attended or graduated from Redlands Community College. Former students may be nominated posthumously. These awards are given for outstanding achievement, service and commitment.

Method of Nomination

Nominations may be made for a Distinguished Alumni Award by any of the following individuals or groups:

- Any member of The RCC Alumni & Friends Association or the RCC Foundation
- Any member of the RCC administration, faculty or staff
- Any member of an affiliate or support organization of the College
- Any Redlands Community College former student
- Any friend of Redlands Community College

Nominations will be accepted using the following guidelines:

1. The Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee will provide an Award Nomination Form which is located on the college website, www.redlandsc.edu.

2. In addition to the Award Nomination Form, nominators are encouraged to provide supporting items that further distinguish the nominee. Such items include, but are not limited to:

- Current biography or curriculum vitae for the individual
- Up to three letters of support from non-family members that specifically address the criteria
- Newspaper and magazine articles
- Personal stories
- Award or certificates of achievement
- Other items of interest

3. Individuals may nominate one distinguished alumni per year.

4. No limitation will be placed on the total number of nominations accepted for consideration.

5. The name of the nominator will not be disclosed.

Method of Award Recipient Selection

The Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee will use the following guidelines for the Award Recipient Selection:

- The Executive Director of the RCC Foundation will serve as Chair of the Alumni Selection Committee and will appoint the members of the committee.
- The Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee will include the following: RCC Executive Director (chair), an academic Division Director, a full time faculty member, an adjunct faculty member and a staff member.
- The committee will be reappointed every 3 years
- The RCC Foundation Office will collect submitted nominations which will be reviewed, dated and validated.
- The RCC Foundation Office will submit the nominations to the committee in advance of the Selection Committee meeting.
- Possible recipients may be selected annually by secret ballot; they may be a combination of living or deceased. A Selection Committee member must recuse themselves if an individual they have nominated is presented to the Committee for approval.

Announcement and Recognition

The Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee will announce annual recipients through various methods and honor each recipient with the appropriate recognition. The Redlands Community College website will list all past winners and a short biography of each.

General Timeline:

Second week of October – Press release announcing call for nominations

First week of December – Deadline for nominations to be received

Third week of January – Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee meets to vote

Fourth week of February – Awardees will be notified

May Commencement – Awardees recognized