

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Alumni Association's "Legends and Legacies" Award Criteria

Winners of the Nebraska Wesleyan University's "Legends and Legacies" alumni awards will have demonstrated achievements and service consistent with the University's vision for graduating students and will embody NWU's core values...

NWU Statement of Vision: Nebraska Wesleyan University will be an outstanding national liberal arts university, where the educational experience transforms each student to lead a life of learning, service, leadership, and success in a diverse world.

NWU Core Values: Excellence; Liberal Arts; Personal Attention to Students; Diversity; Community; Stewardship

List of Awards/Criteria:

Medal of Honor

An award given to an alumnus who embodies the ideals of Nebraska Wesleyan University at the highest levels, especially through his or her service and regular financial support to NWU, the community and through his or her vocational achievement. Prior recipients of achievement, loyalty and young alumni awards may be considered.

Alumni Humanitarian Award

An award given to an alumnus who has made a significant contribution to the status and well-being of others and who has been actively engaged in promoting human and social reforms that foster the alleviation of suffering, discrimination or injustice. It recognizes persons whose lives and actions have been devoted selflessly to serving others, without consideration of personal gain or risk, and whose influence and commitment have positively impacted the lives of persons locally, statewide, nationally or internationally.

Alumni Loyalty Award

An award which recognizes the individual's involvement with, service to and financial support of Nebraska Wesleyan University. Consideration will be given to alumni from class years more than 20 years after graduation.

Alumni Achievement Award

An award which recognizes an individual's vocational achievement and community involvement. Consideration will be given to alumni from class years more than 20 years after graduation and who have demonstrated regular financial support of the University.

Young Alumni Loyalty Award

An award given to an alumnus of Nebraska Wesleyan University, who has graduated within the past 20 years, which recognizes the individual's involvement with, service to, and financial support of Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Young Alumni Achievement Award

An award given to an alumnus of Nebraska Wesleyan University which recognizes the individual's vocational achievement and community involvement. Consideration will be given to alumni who have graduated within the past 20 years and who have demonstrated financial support of the University.

John Rosentrater Act of Valor Award*

An award given to an alumnus whose heroic service falls beyond the call of duty. These alumni may include members of the military, police, fire services and others who put their lives at risk in order to save another person. This award honors recipients' outstanding courage and selflessness in the face of danger.

**This award is named in honor of John Rosentrater, a decorated World War I hero and NWU professor of philosophy from 1936 to 1960. Late Professor of History David Mickey ('39) once wrote that Rosentrater was "one of those giants who, from time to time, walks upon this earth." His service in France earned him the World War I Victory Medal, a Purple Heart, three Bronze Stars and a nomination for the Medal of Honor, the country's highest military award.*

The Alumni Award Process:

Award nominations are reviewed by the Alumni Association's Legends and Legacies Committee. The committee is comprised of: NWU Alumni Relations Director; NWU Events Coordinator; four to six representatives from the Alumni Executive Council (AEC) including current president of AEC; one current NWU faculty member; NWU Vice President of Advancement or designee from that office; two past award recipients. Committee members can serve no more than three consecutive years except for NWU Alumni Director, NWU Events Coordinator and NWU Vice President of Advancement.

The Alumni Association's Legends and Legacies Committee regularly seeks information on outstanding alumni accomplishments. The information is reviewed for possible use in NWU publications and the annual Alumni Association award program. (Additionally, an appeal for nominations is included in at least one issue of Archways each academic year and an email appeal is sent to faculty and staff early in the second semester.)

Anyone can submit information on themselves or other alumni for consideration of an award by contacting the alumni office at 402-465-2123 or alumni@nebrwesleyan.edu. Nomination forms are also available online at <http://www.nebrwesleyan.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-awards/alumni-awards-and-nomination-process>.

Nominations are previewed and approved annually by the Administrative Council which includes University President, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Vice President of Advancement, Vice President of Enrollment Management and University Provost. Approved nominations are then forwarded to the Alumni Association's Legends and Legacies Committee for selection. The committee reviews the pool of nominees to identify the most qualified candidates. When selecting qualified award recipients, the committee gives special consideration to maintaining balance among the list of recipients of characteristics such as age, gender, geographic area, academic/professional discipline, ethnic background, etc. The committee may decide to resubmit nominations from previous years for consideration.

Award announcements are made each year in the Archways magazine and the awards are presented at the annual Legends and Legacies dinner. For a list of past recipients, visit the Nebraska Wesleyan University website at www.nebrwesleyan.edu and click on "Alumni Awards" within the Alumni and Friends section.

For more information:

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Timeline Overview:

January - March = Nominations solicited and accepted

April = Winners selected

April = Notify winners

End of June = Finalize guest list, including award recipients' invitees and have approved bio information

Mid-July = Invitations Mailed

End of July = Receive final copy of award recipients' remarks for ceremony

October = Legends and Legacies Award Ceremony and Dinner

