



# Rensselaer

Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D.  
*President*

To: The Rensselaer Community

From: Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D.  
President  
Professor of Physics, Applied Physics, and Astronomy  
Professor of Engineering Sciences

Date: April 28, 2016

Subject: Nominations for Honorary Degrees and Speaker for the  
2017 Commencement Ceremony

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This is our annual request for Commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient nominations for the Class of 2017 Commencement, and future Commencement exercises.

The conferral of honorary degrees is a long-standing academic tradition that not only recognizes individuals of singular achievement but also brings honor and recognition to the Institute. I urge you to give some thought to the nomination of individuals who deserve to be honored for their accomplishments and who would honor Rensselaer by their participation in Commencement.

The five categories of honorary degrees at Rensselaer are: Engineering, Science, Arts, Humane Letters, and Laws. A candidate for an honorary degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute should have made an outstanding contribution to society, and should have made a significant contribution to his or her professional field. Special attention will be given to candidates who have achieved outstanding success in fields that are related to the educational objectives of the Institute. Appropriate candidates should also embody the basic ideals of personal integrity and good citizenship that the Institute seeks to foster. **Candidates for Commencement speaker need to have strong oratorical skills.**

Additional criteria for degree recipients and a nomination form are attached. The nomination form is also available on Rensselaer's website ([www.rpi.edu](http://www.rpi.edu)) as a link off of the President's page. The Faculty Honors Committee and the President's Committee on Honors will evaluate all nominations in developing a list of nominees to be submitted to the Board of Trustees.

Please send nominations to Paula Realbuto, Office of the President, Troy Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. Nominations received by September 15, 2016, will be considered for the 2017 Commencement ceremony.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important tradition. Your participation in this process will ensure that we have a creative list of qualified candidates to consider.

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### Additional Criteria

Each degree recipient should be at least one of the following:

1. A major contributor to science, engineering, architecture, the arts, management, or public policy, exemplifying Rensselaer's tradition of excellence.
2. An interpreter of science, engineering, or architecture as writer, artist, critic, humanist, or educator, including secondary-school level.
3. A leader in industry, an innovator in the application of science and technology to the productive needs of society.
4. An original thinker or influential spokesperson in relating scientific and technological activity to public policy and needs.
5. An outstanding Rensselaer alumnus or friend who has shown special interest in and support of Rensselaer.

Members of the academic/nonacademic staff and active Trustees of Rensselaer are not eligible candidates. A candidate must be present in person to receive the degree.



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## HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATION FORM

Candidate's full name		Date of Birth	
Present position			
Address & Zip:		Phone	
Reason for awarding the degree			
Degrees earned and institution		Date	
Degrees earned and institution		Date	
Degrees earned and institution		Date	
Degrees earned and institution		Date	
Previous Honors and organization awarding			
Suggested as	<input type="checkbox"/> Commencement Speaker <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Degree Recipient		
Suggested honorary degree to be awarded	(select one)		
Proposed by (Can be more than one person)			
Title(s)			
Address			
City, State, Zip			
Phone Number			
Please return to	Paula Realbuto Office of the President Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy Building, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Troy, New York 12180-3590 <a href="mailto:realbp@rpi.edu">emailto: realbp@rpi.edu</a>		
NOTES	<p>1. Nominees will NOT be considered without the nominator's statement of reason for awarding the degree.</p> <p>2. Please also attach biographical information such as "Who's Who" clippings, internet biography, education, etc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Guidance in Selecting Candidates</u></p> <p>The five categories of honorary degrees at Rensselaer are: Engineering, Science, Arts, Humane Letters, and Laws. A candidate for an honorary degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute should have made an outstanding contribution to society, and should have made a significant contribution to his or her professional field. Special attention will be given to candidates who have achieved outstanding success in fields that are related to the educational objectives of the Institute.</p>		

Appropriate candidates should also embody the basic ideals of personal integrity and good citizenship that the Institute seeks to foster. Candidates for commencement speaker need to have strong oratorical skills.

In addition, each degree recipient should be at least one of the following:

- A major contributor to science, engineering, architecture, the arts, management, or public policy, exemplifying Rensselaer's tradition of excellence.
- An interpreter of science, engineering, or architecture as writer, artist, critic, humanist, or educator, including secondary-school level.
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