



**John J. Hurley**

phone 716-888-2100 | fax 716-888-3220 | email [president@canisius.edu](mailto:president@canisius.edu)

Date: June 30, 2021

To: The Canisius College Community

From: John J. Hurley

Although our spring Commencement exercises are just behind us, we are already beginning the process of planning for next year's ceremonies. I would like to ask for your help in nominating deserving candidates for honorary degrees and speakers for the 2022 Commencement. I have listed the general guidelines below for your information. Please provide background information on your nominees to help the Board of Trustees with the selection process.

Honorary degrees are intended to recognize people who have made significant contributions to society and whom Canisius College wishes to incorporate as members of the Canisius academic family. The following criteria have been adopted by the Board of Trustees:

1. The honorary degrees awarded are usually a Doctor of Humane Letters or a Doctor of Laws.
2. Such awards are made for special distinguished achievement in the arts, sciences, professions, business, commerce, education, and other significant fields of human endeavor. The college is open to international, national and local nominees.
3. The achievements recognized should generally be such as to improve human society and inspire others to work towards similar achievements.
4. Individuals so honored should be of good moral character, who will reflect credit upon Canisius College, as a Catholic and Jesuit institution.
5. It is customary to award approximately three or four honorary degrees each year, including the commencement speakers.

Also, it is the college's policy that honorary degrees may not be conferred on currently serving faculty, staff, or administrators, or current members of the Board of Trustees.

At this time, we also invite you to nominate commencement speakers for next year's undergraduate and graduate ceremonies. The following guidelines apply to the commencement speakers:

1. If possible, the speaker should have some connection with Canisius College, higher education or the local Western New York community.
2. The speaker should be a competent public speaker.
3. The speaker will not be a candidate for public office in the year in which the commencement takes place.
4. All other things being equal, preference will be given to graduates of Canisius College who have distinguished themselves in their career and have been a credit to Alma Mater.

**Please submit all nominations by [clicking here](#) to complete the form by August 1, 2021.** Please note, if you submitted a nomination in a prior year, but that person has not yet been selected, their name remains on a master list of candidates and will be considered by the Board in the next cycle. **Should you run into any issues in completing the form, please contact Erica Sammarco at [sammarce@canisius.edu](mailto:sammarce@canisius.edu).**

Many thanks for your time and consideration.

cc: Board of Trustees  
Former Members of the Board of Trustees  
Board of Regents  
President, Undergraduate Student Association