

# Call for Nominations

## Honorary Degree Recipient & Commencement Speaker for Webster University's 105<sup>th</sup> Commencement

We look forward to our 105<sup>th</sup> Commencement ceremonies on May 11, 2024. The annual Commencement in St. Louis is the largest gathering of graduates and families from Webster campus locations throughout the world.

An important part of Commencement is the awarding of an honorary degree to a recipient who will be our Commencement speaker. As in the past, we are seeking suggestions for this honor. Nominations will only be accepted through the online form located at [webster.edu/nominate](http://webster.edu/nominate).

The honorary doctorate degree recognizes academic accomplishments of individuals, including alumni, as well as those who may not have had any previous association with the University.

### Nomination Areas

The Honorary Degree Committee seeks nominations of individuals who have excelled in one or more of the following areas:

Individuals whose achievements and actions are consistent with the mission, vision and values of Webster University;

Individuals who are distinguished by their professional, scholarly, intellectual or creative achievement in fields of interest at Webster University;

Humanitarian deeds and the degree to which the candidate's activities have exhibited substantial and sustained efforts and whose work has touched various lives;

Individuals who can connect with graduates and speak to them regarding issues that will impact them now and in the future.

Please submit your nominations by:

**Friday, Sept. 29, 2023**

Online nomination form:  
[webster.edu/nominate](http://webster.edu/nominate)

### How To Nominate

Fill out the online nomination form at [webster.edu/nominate](http://webster.edu/nominate), providing the reason you believe these individuals merit an honorary degree from Webster University.

Confidentiality is crucial to the nomination process.

Please note that all nominations must be confidential, without notice to the nominee, in order to protect privacy and respect the nominee. This applies until the process has concluded. Official notification of the University's wish to confer an honorary degree upon an individual is made by the President on behalf of the Honorary Degree Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Self-nominations will not be considered.



### PAST RECIPIENTS

- **Matt Vogel**  
Webster alumnus (BFA Theatre, 1993), Emmy award-winning director and producer, actor and puppeteer
- **Jackie Joyner-Kersey**  
Philanthropist, six-time Olympic medalist and world record holder
- **Simon Wiesenthal**  
Holocaust survivor and writer
- **Koko Tanimoto Kondo**  
Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor and peace activist
- **Michael P. McMillan**  
President and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis
- **Will D. Carpenter**  
Scientist and leader for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- **Jenifer Lewis**  
St. Louis-born actress, singer, community activist, and Webster University alumna (BA Theatre Arts, 1979)
- **Norbert Leo Butz**  
Two-time Tony award-winning Webster alum (BFA Theatre Arts, 1990)
- Gen. **Paul Selva**  
10th vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and second highest ranking officer in the United States Military (ret.)
- **Katy Sullivan**  
Webster alumna (BFA Theatre Arts, 2002), award-winning television and stage actress, producer and writer, as well as a four-time U.S. champion Paralympic runner
- **Jim Weddle**  
Former managing partner of Edward Jones Investments
- **Vladimir Ivkovic**  
Webster Vienna alumnus (BA Psychology, 1999) and aerospace neuroscientist

