

Olathe Public Schools Alumni Association Wall of Honor

Distinguished Person of Honor

To perpetuate the tradition of excellence and inspire current students, outstanding individuals are selected for the Distinguished Person of Honor recognition. The purpose of this prestigious award is to recognize current or former Olathe Public Schools staff for lifetime achievements. Visit www.olatheschools.org/alumni for additional information.

What are the eligibility requirements?

(1) Candidates for the Distinguished Person of Honor recognition must be current/former employees or Board of Education members of the Olathe Public Schools; and (2) must have made a positive impact and/or great achievement in at least one of the following areas: personal and/or professional life; community/ humanitarian service; or commitment to educational excellence in the Olathe Public Schools.

How are honorees selected?

A committee of the Olathe Public Schools Alumni Association makes a recommendation to the alumni association board for final selection.

Is there a deadline?

March 1 is the deadline for the current year, but nominations are accepted on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

When did this project begin?

The first Distinguished Person of Honor was recognized in 2012.

Is there an actual wall?

Yes, plaques listing the honorees by year are on display in the lobby of the Education Center, 14160 Black Bob Road, Olathe, Kansas. In addition, we have a touch-screen computer kiosk showcasing each honoree's photo and biography.

Additional information:

Nominees will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, creed, religion, sex, nationality, disability, economic status or marital status. The award may be bestowed posthumously. The Olathe Public Schools Alumni Association Executive Board retains the right to remove names from the Wall of Honor.

2012 Distinguished Person of Honor — Ralph Dennis
2013 Distinguished Person of Honor — Ed Badsy Sr.
2014 Distinguished Person of Honor — Ruth Ann Hackler
2015 Distinguished Person of Honor — Bob Blackman
2016 Distinguished Persons of Honor — Margaret Barron and Texanna Ollenberger
2017 Distinguished Person of Honor — James Smith
2018 Distinguished Persons of Honor — Dr. Patricia All and Bob Courtney
2019 Distinguished Person of Honor — Dr. Ron Wimmer
2021 Distinguished Person of Honor — Dr. Alison Banikowski
2022 Distinguished Person of Honor — Ruth Nelson
2023 Distinguished Persons of Honor — Diane Gossage and Corinthian Nutter
2024 Distinguished Persons of Honor — Catherine Smith and Dr. Melvin Winters
2025 Distinguished Person of Honor — Cindy Jones

Olathe Public Schools Alumni Association

Distinguished Person of Honor Nomination Form

Today's Date: _____

Step 1: Basic Nominee Information

Name of Nominee: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Dates of Employment in the Olathe School District (e.g. 1991-2018): _____

Occupation(s) with the school district: _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Check area(s) of positive impact or great achievement:

personal and/or professional life

community/humanitarian service

commitment to education

Step 2: Nominee Profile

(A) Write a letter explaining why this nominee deserves Distinguished Person of Honor recognition on the Olathe Public Schools Alumni Association Wall of Honor. Multiple letters of recommendation from several people are encouraged. Non-family member nominator is recommended.

(B) List any special awards and honors received. May include high school, post-secondary, professional and/or lifetime.

(C) Include any additional relevant or supporting documentation such as newspaper clippings, etc.

Step 3: Nominator Contact Information

Nominator Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone # _____ Email Address (optional): _____

Have you notified the nominee of this nomination? Yes No Deceased

Step 4: Return Form and Supporting Materials

Please mail all materials to: Olathe Public Schools Alumni Association, 300 E. Loula Street, Olathe, Kansas 66061

Phone: 913-780-8182

Email: alumniassociation@olatheschools.org

****Only nomination forms with all three steps (1-3) completed will be accepted for consideration****