

*B*BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Policies and Procedures

AREA: **Academic Affairs**

NUMBER: **Policy 2.17**

SUBJECT: **Honorary Degrees**

To recognize and honor exceptional men and women who have given a substantial part of their lives to serving others and who have distinguished themselves through their professional careers and/or volunteer service, Blue Mountain College may award honorary degrees.

1. **Categories of Honorary Degrees**

The College may select from four categories of honorary degrees based upon the intended recipient's field(s) of contribution, achievement, service, and distinction.

- A. Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) - awarded for outstanding service to or scholarship in the religious community.
- B. Doctor of Letters (D.LITT.) - awarded for outstanding achievements in the humanities or in the performing or fine arts.
- C. Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) - awarded for outstanding achievement in the pure and applied sciences.
- D. Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) - awarded for outstanding academic achievement in the social sciences and/or for significant community contributions at the local, national, or international levels.

2. **Criteria for Selection**

The following are the commonly used criteria for selecting honorary degree recipients at the colleges and universities. They are intended as guidelines in selection of recipients.

- A. Eminent contribution to the College (and to Baptist Christian higher education, in particular), the community, the State of Mississippi, or society.
- B. Eminent achievement in a particular field of endeavor.

- C. Personal status that will enhance the reputation of the College and serve as an example to its students and alumnae/alumni.
- D. Potential for contribution to the goals or welfare of the College.
- E. While recipients may be alumnae or alumni, former employees, former Board of Trustees members, or public officials, they may not be, at the time of the award, current employees, incumbent members of the Board of Trustees, or incumbent officials of federal, state or local government.

3. **Process for Selection**

In coordination with the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the College will establish its own internal process for determining honorary degree recipients to be recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval.

4. **Presentation of Honorary Degrees**

Honorary degrees normally will be given during commencement exercises, and the recipient should agree to be present as a condition of receiving the award. On occasion, honorary degrees may be awarded at convocations or presidential inaugurations.

5. **Limitation on the Number of Honorary Degrees**

Because of the size of the College and the criteria for awarding honorary degrees, it is expected that Blue Mountain College will limit the granting of honorary degrees to no more than two per year and with no expectation for granting degrees on a routine basis.

SOURCE: Board of Trustees: February 21, 2003.