



Honorary Degree

Nomination Form

1. Degree to be Awarded:

X Honorary Doctorate ___ Honorary Baccalaureate ___ Honorary Associate

2. Please state the name and address of your nominee for an Honorary Degree.

Mr. Jimmy Kimmel

3. Honorary degrees shall be awarded to persons who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the quality of academic programs and academic life at one of the NSHE's institutions. Persons currently holding public elected office are not eligible for the degree except in extraordinary circumstances.

What are your reasons for nominating this person? (Attach additional pages, if necessary.)

See attached

President Neal J. Smatresk

Date

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

(B/R 3/03; Added 6/05)

NOMINATION JUSTIFICATION—JAMES CHRISTIAN “JIMMY” KIMMEL

AFFILIATION WITH UNLV AND NSHE

James Christian “Jimmy” Kimmel is being nominated for an honorary doctorate for his decades-long support of UNLV and our community. Mr. Kimmel grew up in Las Vegas after his family moved to the valley when he was nine. He graduated from Ed W. Clark High School and then attended UNLV before attending Arizona State University. He considers Las Vegas his hometown and is very proud of his association with UNLV.

Mr. Kimmel began working in the radio industry while in high school, hosting a Sunday night interview show on UNLV's college station KUNV. This was the start of his incredibly successful career as a television personality and comedian.

He has been an avid supporter of UNLV athletics, particularly the Runnin' Rebels. He was interviewed on HBO's documentary, “Runnin' Rebels of UNLV.” Mr. Kimmel has lent his talents and skills to developing in-game related content displayed at games. He has used social media to promote his passion for the Runnin' Rebels and provide our team with encouragement. Mr. Kimmel has repeatedly used national on-air time and interviews to showcase UNLV, our athletics programs, and to share his pride in being an alumnus.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mr. Kimmel has financially supported the Dave Rice Foundation, which in turn has contributed to the Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders at UNLV. In addition, he has supported:

- Aid Still Required
- DoSomething.org
- Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation
- KaBOOM!
- National Inclusion Project

With Adam Carolla, Mr. Kimmel co-founded the annual LA Feast of San Gennaro, which celebrates Italian culture through entertainment, music and cuisine. The festival also honors outstanding members of the Los Angeles community and raises funds to aid needy children and families in the city. He hosted Los Angeles' eighth annual feast of San Gennaro from September 28-30, 2009.

CAREER BACKGROUND

Television personality and comedian Jimmy Kimmel was born James Christian Kimmel in Brooklyn, New York, on November 13, 1967. When he was just 9 years old, Kimmel moved with parents Jim and Joan, and siblings Jonathan and Jill, to Las Vegas. The eldest of three, he proved to be a meticulous artist and an excellent student, earning straight A's throughout high school.

Mr. Kimmel's first real foray into performance was as a college radio disc jockey. After testing the airwaves at UNLV and Arizona State University, Kimmel began his professional radio career at age 21. Bouncing from market to market in cities like Seattle, Phoenix and Tucson, Mr. Kimmel eventually found a home at Los Angeles' famed KROQ, working as "Jimmy the Sports Guy" on *The Kevin and Bean Show*.

In 1997, Mr. Kimmel made the leap to television, debuting on the small screen as the host of Comedy Central's game show, *Win Ben Stein's Money*. Mr. Kimmel provided a comic counterpoint for the show's eponymous challenger. Ben Stein and Mr. Kimmel won a 1999 Daytime Emmy for Best Game Show Host and a Daytime Emmy nomination in 2001.

Two years into his game show success, Mr. Kimmel, in cooperation with longtime friends Adam Carolla and Daniel Kellison, established a production company under the name Jackhole Industries. The trio began developing comedy shows through Jackhole, and pitching them to various networks. In 1999, the company pitched one of its projects, *The Man Show*, to Comedy Central. Billed as the "anti-Oprah," the half-hour comedy show glorified testosterone and featured beer chugging, models bouncing on trampolines, and unabashed toilet humor. Hitting new heights in puerile comedy, the show was a runaway success for the network and led to Mr. Kimmel's frequent appearances as a commentator on *Fox NFL Sunday*.

After their *Man Show* achievements, Mr. Kimmel and his company created the 2002 show, *Crank Yankers*, on Comedy Central. The show depicted puppets acting out previously recorded prank phone calls voiced by comic celebrities such as David Alan Grier, Dane Cook, Seth MacFarlane, Wanda Sykes, Sarah Silverman and even Kimmel's own children.

With several hit shows under his belt, ABC showed an interest in Mr. Kimmel as a potential late night host in the early 2000s. *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* debuted on January 26, 2003. Thousands of episodes later, Mr. Kimmel has earned the respect of A-list guests and beat out rival late-night talk shows in the ratings. In 2012, the network announced that it would move *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* to an earlier time slot to compete against NBC's *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Hosted the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards, which aired on September 23, 2012, marking his first time hosting the event.
- Hosted the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, D.C. on April 28, 2012.
- Served as Master of Ceremonies for the National Italian American Foundation's 34th Anniversary Gala in Washington, D.C., on October 24, 2009.