

## **Honorary Degree**

## **Nomination Form**

1.	Degree to be Awarded:
	X_Honorary DoctorateHonorary BaccalaureateHonorary Associate
2.	Please state the name and address of your nominee for an Honorary Degree.
	Kristen Avansino_
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.)
	Please see attachment
	Dr. Marc Johnson January 21, 2016 President Date
	University of Nevada, Reno
	Institution

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

## **ATTACHMENT**

## UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO Honorary Degree Nomination – Kristen A. Avansino

The University of Nevada, Reno is pleased to nominate civic leader and champion of the arts and wellness Kristen A. Avansino for Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in proud recognition of her significant contributions to the University and the state of Nevada.

Kristen A. Avansino received her bachelor of arts degree and master of arts degree from Mills College in Oakland, California. She simultaneously received a California Lifetime Teaching Credential through the Graduate Internship Program at the University of California, Berkeley. She has taken Master Dance classes in New York City, San Francisco and Berkeley.

From 1971 to 1980 Mrs. Avansino was Assistant Professor of Dance at the University of Nevada, Reno. She has continued to teach and choreograph throughout the state and has served as an Adjunct Professor of Dance for 17 years, serving as a lecturer and guest choreographer for dance performances at the University of Nevada, Reno.

In 1990, Mrs. Avansino became the Vice President – Grants Programs of the E. L. Wiegand Foundation. Since 1993, she has served as the Foundation's President and Executive Director. The E. L. Wiegand Foundation has a long-standing partnership and association with the University of Nevada, Reno, including support of programs in the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, Intercollegiate Athletics and The College of Business.

In 2014, the E. L. Wiegand Foundation committed the lead gift for the E. L. Wiegand Fitness Center at the University of Nevada, Reno. The project is currently under construction and is scheduled for completion in 2017. The E. L. Wiegand Fitness center will complete the student-centered mid-campus development and represents a near doubling of the space dedicated to student fitness, wellness and recreation.

Mrs. Avansino has served on the boards of Carroll College, the Cate School, YMCA of the Sierra, YMCA of the USA and the Nevada Museum of Art. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Ballet, a position held since 1991. She has been honored by the American Jewish Committee and the American Lung Association. She served on the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2002, and currently serves as Emeritus Trustee. In 2005, she was honored by the Nevada Alumni Association with the University Service Award, for her work in the School of Arts. She is recognized in the University of Nevada, Reno Honor Court as a Silver Benefactor. Mrs. Avansino and her husband, Skip Avansino, have two daughters, Calgary and Marisa.