

Alumni Award Descriptions

School Awards

There are four awards that *all* University of Rochester schools can give out to honor alumni achievements. Please see below for their descriptions.

Dean's Medal

The Dean's Medal recognizes extraordinary service, philanthropy, and leadership to [SCHOOL], and dedication and commitment that inspire others to take leadership roles at the University. Individuals, families, associations, corporations, or foundations may be recognized. It is among the highest honors given by [SCHOOL].

Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni whose exceptional professional achievements, contributions to their chosen field, and service to the community and the [SCHOOL] have brought honor to themselves and to the University of Rochester.

James S. Armstrong Alumni Service Award

The James S. Armstrong Alumni Service Award is presented to an alumnus/a in recognition of outstanding and extraordinary service, leadership, loyalty, commitment, and significant contribution to the University in broad and varied roles. This award honors James S. Armstrong '54, '65 (MA), who served the University from 1976 to 1987 as director of alumni relations.

John N. Wilder Award

The John N. Wilder Award honors an individual, family, association, corporation, or foundation whose philanthropy inspires others in support of an "Ever Better" University of Rochester. This award is named for John Wilder, first president (chairman) of the University's Board of Trustees.

More information and past award recipients.

Alumni Award Descriptions

Honorary Degrees and University-Wide Awards

Provost Awards

The Office of the Provost helps administer awards annually to alumni and members of the community. Please see below for their descriptions.

Honorary Degrees

Honorary degrees are granted to individuals from outside the University community who have achieved great distinction in academics, private enterprise, public service, or the arts. [More information and past recipients.](#)

Hutchison Medal

The Charles Force Hutchison and Marjorie Smith Hutchison Medal is awarded to University of Rochester alumni in recognition of their outstanding achievement and notable service to the community, state, or nation. [More information and past recipients.](#)

George Eastman Medal

The George Eastman Medal recognizes individuals whose achievements and service embody the University of Rochester's highest ideals. The medal is named for George Eastman, the University's major benefactor and one of the nation's great champions of higher education. [More information and past recipients.](#)

Frederick Douglass Medal

The Frederick Douglass Medal is given to distinguished individuals whose scholarship and civic engagement honor Frederick Douglass's legacy. The award is given out by the University's Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies. [More information and past recipients.](#)

Rochester Distinguished Scholar

The Rochester Distinguished Scholar award recognizes doctoral alumni who have led distinguished careers in academia, private enterprise, public service or the arts. An individual is eligible for the award if they have earned a doctoral degree from Rochester and are not currently employed by the University. [More information and past recipients.](#)

Alumni Award Descriptions

Honorary Degrees and University-Wide Awards

Susan B. Anthony Awards

The Susan B. Anthony Center presents awards that honor Susan B. Anthony's legacy and celebrates the achievement of contemporary women. Please see below for their descriptions.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award honors and celebrates women whose lives have been enriched by their years at the University of Rochester and who have, in turn, inspired other women to advance and lead. Nominees are faculty, staff, trustees and/or alumnae who have achieved significant professional stature and influence, who have a commendable, trailblazing body of work, and who have used their experience and skills to help other women advance as leaders. Nominees should have a strong affiliation with the University of Rochester and a "lifetime" of significant achievements.

Emerging Leader Award

The Emerging Leader Award was established to recognize a female leader who is in the early stages of her career. Candidates have made significant contributions to and have strong engagement in the community, demonstrate strong leadership ability, and exhibit high potential for collaboration. Overall, the emerging leader is dedicated to making a positive impact in the University of Rochester and or Rochester-area community. Candidates should have an affiliation with the University of Rochester (staff, faculty, alumna, or community partners).

Community Champion Award

The award recognizes a community leader or organization that has made significant contributions to the community, demonstrates sound leadership while exhibiting a strong ability to engage in a collaborative manner, and is dedicated to making a positive impact in the Rochester-area community.

More information and past award recipients.

Alumni Award Descriptions

Honorary Degrees and University-Wide Awards

Presidential Diversity Distinguished Alumni Award

The Presidential Diversity Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes a graduate of the University of Rochester who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment, and contributions to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in their personal, professional, or community endeavors. This award celebrates alumni who embody the University's core values of fostering an inclusive and equitable society and inspire future generations through their work.

To be eligible for this award, nominees must be graduates of the University of Rochester, either at the undergraduate or graduate level. The nominee must have a proven track record of dedication to advancing DEI principles, whether through professional accomplishments, community engagement, or personal initiatives.
