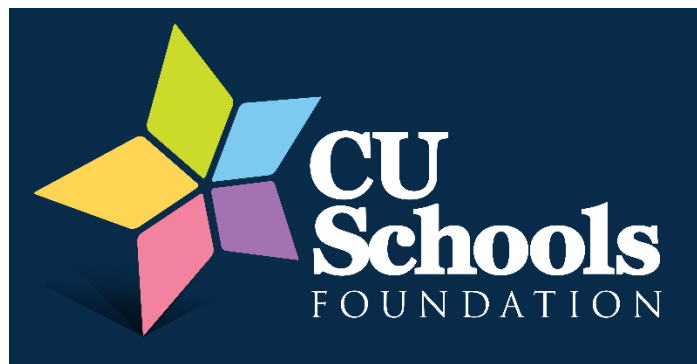


Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation

Local Hero Award





Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation Distinguished Alumni Awards Program

The Purpose of the Awards

- The Distinguished Alumni Awards shall recognize graduates of the Unit 4 and District 116 high schools, including Champaign Centennial, Champaign Central and Urbana High School, whose achievements, strength of character, and citizenship serve as models to inspire and challenge today's youth. The Local Business Community Impact and Local Hero Award recognizes individuals and businesses who have demonstrated their commitment to benefiting the Champaign-Urbana school community and/or public schools.

Conditions of Eligibility

- The Distinguished Alumni Awards shall be open each year to any alumnus or alumna who graduated from the Unit 4 or District 116 high schools no less than ten (10) years prior to that nomination year. Awards recognize achievement in various fields of service which may include athletics, business, education, entertainment, law, medicine, military, philanthropy, politics, public service, religion, scholarship, science and the fine and performing arts.
- The award must be accepted in person. If the honoree is unable to attend the recognition event, the Selection Committee may select a replacement, and the original nominee will be added back into the pool of candidates for subsequent years.
- No current CUSF Staff, CUSF Board, Review or Selection Committee members (or their immediate families) are eligible for an award.

Nomination Procedure

- Any person other than a member of the Review or Selection Committee may submit nominations for the award.
- Submission of the nomination form, letter of support and vita or resume is expected. All submitted materials should be legible to reviewers, and may be accompanied by photo of the candidate.
- Nominations begin on the day following the most recent recognition event and continue until the announced deadline for the close of new nominations. Nominations received after the announced deadline will be considered candidates for the next recognition event.
- All nomination information will be considered confidential by the Review and Selection Committees.

Review & Selection Procedure

- A Review Committee shall receive and review all nominations and rank top nominees from each school and award category.
- The Review Committee meets and then presents recommendations to the Selection Committee.
- The Selection Committee; CUSF Board representative, CUSF Ex Director, 1 representative from each high school is charged with determining the final honorees.
- Individuals nominated for the Distinguished Alumni Awards that are not chosen will continue to be eligible for four (4) years following the initial nomination process without re-nomination.



2025 Local Hero Award

Local Hero Nomination Criteria

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to benefiting the Champaign-Urbana school community and/or public schools through their volunteer time and efforts. Local Hero recipient(s) volunteer activities must occur within the district boundaries of Unit 4 and District 116. The recipient must have graduated from high school no less than ten (10) years prior to that nomination year.

Employees of the CU Schools Foundation and their family members and individuals serving on the CU Schools Foundation Board of Directors and their family members are not eligible for any of these awards.

Local Hero Award Nominee's High School: _____

Local Hero Nominee's Year of Graduation from High School: _____

Local Hero Nominator: Please provide the following:

- 1) This Nomination Form
- 2) A letter of support/overview/or summary describing specifically how this nominee has demonstrated their commitment to benefiting the Champaign-Urbana community through their volunteer time and efforts.
- 3) A photo of the nominee if possible (not required at this time)
- 4) In addition, nominators may provide weblinks to publications, accomplishments or any other information that demonstrates the nominee's qualifications for distinction.

Local Hero Nominee Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Local Hero Nominator's Information:

Your Name (Nominator):

First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Is the Nominee aware of this nomination? ___ Yes ___ No

Local Hero References:

Nominations must include two references who are familiar with the nominee's accomplishments. Members of the nominee's immediate family may not be references.

Reference 1

First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Reference 2

First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the information I have provided is accurate.

Signature of Nominator _____ Date _____

Reminder: All materials must be received no later than December 6, 2025 to be considered.

Return nomination materials to:

**CU Schools Foundation P.O. Box 1166 Champaign, IL 61824
Or email a PDF to info@CUSchoolsFoundation.org**