

GCMS Distinguished Alumni

Purpose and Philosophy

The purpose of the Distinguished Alumni program is to recognize GCMS alumni who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the legacy of excellence of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley District #5. The Distinguished Alumni Award does more than honor its recipients. It also further illustrates the great value of the academic programs, remind faculty of the potential each student has to make to the community, and increases the pride all alumni, students, staff and faculty have for our school. These individuals exemplify the ideals of the GCMS school district and the communities it serves, and should be held as role models for current and future GCMS students. Their careers and achievements honor and sustain the legacy of excellence that is GCMS schools.

Nomination Committee

The nomination committee shall be a public committee of six members. The committee is comprised of volunteer leaders and representatives of the GCMS Administration, faculty, students, and GCMS community members. Committee members will be asked to serve for a period of two (2) years by the GCMS High School Principal, with the exception of the GCMS High School Senior Class President. Others may participate in the open discussion but only the five (5) members of the committee will have the duty of voting. The GCMS Principal will serve as the Committee Chair and will review all nominations received. The nomination committee shall consist of:

1. The GCMS High School Principal (voting member)
2. The GCMS High School Senior Class President (non-voting member)
3. One (1) GCMS staff member (1 year term) (voting member)
4. Three (3) GCMS community members (3 year term) (voting members)
 - a. During the first year, community members will be placed on a 1-3 year term so they can be rotated off without having all members leave at the same time.

Criteria for Selection

Recipients will be accomplished in one or more of the three distinct areas as outlined below. This distinction will be reflective of GCMS's core values – Growth, Commitment, Motivation, and Success.

1. **Professional Achievement and Career or Military Service Distinction:** The recipient attained prominence through his or her efforts in commerce, industry, technology, the professions, agriculture, the arts, education, government, military or other worthy endeavors that form a record of accomplishment impressive to the citizens of GCMS.
2. **Service to Society:** The recipient exhibits integrity and a demonstrated commitment to service through an interest in bettering the lives of others through volunteer efforts.
3. **Service and Support of GCMS School District #5:** The recipient's deeds and actions reflect the importance of his or her education training, pride in Alma mater and loyalty to GCMS, as demonstrated through their interest in and support of GCMS District #5.

Eligibility:

1. Nominees must be an alumni of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley High School (GCMS), Gibson City High School (GCHS), GCHS, Melvin High School (MHS), Sibley High School (SHS), or Melvin-Sibley High School (MSHS).
2. Nominees must be nominated by any alumni of GCHS, GCMS, MHS, SHS, or MSHS or be a current community member of the GCMS school district.
3. Nominees must not be a candidate for an elected public office in the year of the award.
4. Nominees must be out of High School for at least 10 years.
5. Award may be given posthumously and, in such circumstances, there shall be no age requirement.

Method of Nomination

Nominations will be accepted using the following guidelines:

1. Nomination form to be completed by the nominator (required).
2. In addition to completing and submitting the Distinguished Alumni nomination form, nominators are encouraged to provide supporting items that further distinguish the nominee. Such items include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Current biography for the individual.
 - b. Newspaper and magazine clippings.
 - c. Personal stories
 - d. Award or certificates of achievement
 - e. Other items of interest

Selection Process

Applications/nominations will be accepted during the school year. The selection process begins June 1 each year and culminates in the honorees being selected prior to August 1, with the induction ceremony occurring during the Boys' Basketball season (January-February). Two honorees will be selected each year from the list of eligible candidates. All candidates not selected in the current year or applications received after the submission deadline shall remain as active nominations for future consideration.

Announcement and Recognition

Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley High School will announce honorees annually through various methods and honor each recipient with the appropriate recognition. Honorees and family members will be invited to attend a selected Boys' Basketball game to receive their award. A plaque and bio will be on permanent display located in the high school's main lobby.