

**CHAPTER 2: Administration and General Institution  
BOARD POLICY NO. 2.80 (BP 4110)**

**BOARD POLICY  
San Mateo County Community College District**

**Subject:** BP 2.80 Recognition: Honorary Degree; Presidential Medallion; Naming of Facilities  
**Revision Date:** 2/11; Reviewed 3/18  
**Policy References:** Title 5, Section 18801

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1. Honorary Degree or Presidential Medallion

- a. In order to recognize the contributions of a community member, alumni or benefactor of the District or its Colleges; accomplishments or achievements of an individual in a particular field of study; or an individual's contributions to society in general, the Board may bestow either an Honorary Degree or a Presidential Medallion.
  - i. An Honorary Associate in Arts or Sciences degree may be awarded to a distinguished person meeting the qualifications above who has not previously earned a degree from one of the three District Colleges.
  - ii. A Presidential Medallion may be awarded to a distinguished person meeting the qualifications above who holds a degree from one of the three District Colleges.
- b. Nominations for an Honorary Degree or Presidential Medallion may be made by any Board member, faculty staff, students, alumni, friends of the Colleges or other members of the College community by sending a letter outlining the candidate's contributions, accomplishments and achievements to the Chancellor.
  - i. If the recommendation is for an Honorary Degree, the Board President, Chancellor, appropriate College president and Foundation Executive Director will consult with the District and College Academic Senates on the nomination. If the nomination is endorsed by the Academic Senates, it will be forwarded to the Board for final approval.
  - ii. If the recommendation is for a Presidential Medallion, the Board President, Chancellor, appropriate College President and Foundation Executive Director shall constitute a committee with appropriate representative from all campus groups which will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.
- c. An Honorary Degree or a Presidential Medallion may be awarded in absentia and posthumously, but only upon recommendation to the Board of Trustees by the Chancellor in the case of extraordinary and compelling circumstances.
- d. Current faculty, staff, and trustees are not eligible for an Honorary Degree or Presidential Medallion. Faculty, staff, and trustees who have been separated from the District/College for at least five years are eligible.

2. Naming of Facilities

- a. In most cases, naming opportunities for District facilities will be reserved for major donors, whose financial contributions significantly enhance the District's ability to build, renovate or rehabilitate facilities or to significantly expand or enhance academic programs. In recognition of major financial contributions, the Board of Trustees may name District facilities in honor of said funder. The term "facilities" includes but is not limited to buildings, rooms, plazas, gardens, walkways, streets, and other spatial areas or structures on District property. The funding does not necessarily need to involve the named facility. Proposals for such naming may come from any source, including The San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation. Upon a proposal, the president of the Board of Trustees, the chancellor of the District, and the president of any involved college (in consultation with the campus community) shall constitute a committee to make a recommendation to the Board, which shall have the final authority.
- b. On occasion, in recognition of an extraordinary and enduring accomplishment or contribution to the College District or the Colleges, a facility may be named for a person who has not made a financial contribution to the District. Current faculty, staff, and trustees are not eligible for such naming. Faculty, staff and trustees who have been separated from the District/College for at least five years are eligible. Upon a proposal, the president of the Board of Trustees, the chancellor of the District, and the president of any involved college (in consultation with the campus community) shall constitute a committee to make a recommendation to the Board, which shall have the final authority.