



Outstanding Alumnus Award Criteria

The Alumni Association of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics (GSSM) bestows an annual award honoring the achievements of one exceptional alumnus. Nominated and voted upon by GSSM alumni, the Outstanding Alumnus Award is presented to a person who, through their post-GSSM education, work, and personal endeavors, has exemplified the success one can achieve through the foundation of a GSSM education.

In keeping to this standard, the Alumni Association Awards Committee will consider any and all of the following criteria when selecting finalists for the Outstanding Alumnus Award:

1. A nominee's post-GSSM education, work, and personal endeavors

The Outstanding Alumnus Award nominee should embody achievement accomplished by way of his or her GSSM education. This is a broad category that is intended to include almost any alumnus who has achieved a special or exceptional level of post-GSSM success, which we believe deserves recognition. Essentially, if you can think of a GSSM alumnus who is doing amazing work somewhere in the world, chances are they fit this criterion.

2. A nominee's commitment to GSSM or the State of South Carolina

While the Outstanding Alumnus Award highlights a nominee's individual success, the Awards Committee also highly values a nominee's commitment to the School or the State of South Carolina as a whole. Nominees need not work or reside in the state; however, the Awards Committee is interested in awarding the Outstanding Alumnus Award to those individuals who do not "forget" GSSM or their home state. Therefore, in addition to a nominee's personal accolades and accomplishments, a nominee's contribution back to GSSM or the State of South Carolina also is considered. This contribution can manifest in a number of ways, including, but not limited to, financial support, service, volunteering time, resources, and energy, mentoring, lobbying, or any combination of these or other ways.

3. A nominee's commitment to "spreading the word" and increasing the reach of GSSM on the state or national stage

Nestled in Hartsville, South Carolina, GSSM is one of only 12 specialized, residential high schools in the nation. Because of this uniqueness and the school's relatively small size, GSSM relies on its alumni to "spread the word" about its bright students, accomplished faculty, and unique learning environment. Thus, evidence of a nominee's commitment to increasing the reach of GSSM on the state or national stage will be considered by the Awards Committee during its decision-making process.

The Award Committee's Commitment to Diversity

Just as GSSM is committed to preserving diversity within its admissions process and student body, the Awards Committee is committed to maintaining diversity within the Outstanding Alumnus Award selection process. To that end, the nomination of women and minority alumni is strongly encouraged, and the Awards Committee will make every effort to ensure that the Outstanding Alumnus Award finalists are as varied and distinct as the School.

Note: The above list is not intended to be all inclusive, and the Awards Committee may consider additional criteria or special circumstances as the need arises.