



Honorary Degree

Nomination Form

1. Degree to be Awarded:

X Honorary Doctorate ___ Honorary Baccalaureate ___ Honorary Associate

2. Please state the name and address of your nominee for an Honorary Degree.

Fatih and Eren Ozmen

3. Honorary degrees shall be awarded to persons who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the quality of academic programs and academic life at one of the NSHE's institutions. Persons currently holding public elected office are not eligible for the degree except in extraordinary circumstances.

What are your reasons for nominating this person? (Attach additional pages, if necessary.)

Please see attachment

Dr. Marc Johnson February 2, 2016
President Date
University of Nevada, Reno
Institution

(B/R 3/03; Added 6/05)

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO
Honorary Degree Nomination – Eren and Fatih Ozmen

The University of Nevada, Reno is pleased to nominate entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and champions of higher education, Eren and Fatih Ozmen, for Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters in proud recognition of their significant contributions to the University and the state of Nevada.

More than 30 years ago, Eren and Fatih came from Turkey to embark on a new adventure as graduate students at the University of Nevada, Reno. Eren earned her MBA in 1985 and Fatih earned his master's in Electrical Engineering in 1981. With education and determination, the couple launched their entrepreneurial vision into a global high-tech aerospace company, Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC). They acquired SNC in 1994 when it was a small engineering firm with 20 employees. Today, Sparks-based SNC has a workforce of nearly 3,000 personnel worldwide, and is setting off toward new frontiers. Earlier this year, NASA announced that SNC's *Dream Chaser*[®] spacecraft – whose folding wings allow it to be launched by different rockets and land on airport runways just like space shuttles of a generation ago – will join NASA's commercial fleet, as part of a multi-billion-dollar contract award, in servicing the International Space Station starting in 2019. Remarkably, through these many years and accomplishments, Eren and Fatih remain the sole owners of SNC.

Under the Ozmens' leadership, with Eren as president and Fatih as CEO, SNC has received numerous awards for innovation, growth and employee satisfaction. The company was included in the World's Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Space by *Fast Company*, among the Top 10 Fastest-growing Companies by *Inc.* for revenue growth for billion-dollar companies, as second on the list of Top 50 Fastest Growing Woman-Owned Companies in North America by the International Women Presidents' Organization, and as one of Greater Reno-Tahoe's Best Places to Work.

Passionate about giving back, in particular to the institution that helped them fulfill their dreams, in 2014 the couple established the Ozmen Center for Entrepreneurship at The College of Business. Opened in 2014, the Center's purpose is to encourage collaboration across educational, professional and geographic boundaries. Beyond the campus, the center benefits the community, region and state through the development of ideas that translate to job growth.

Eren received The College of Business Alumni Award in 2013. Fatih received the College of Engineering's Scrugham Medal in 2009. Eren and Fatih were both honored by the Nevada Alumni Association in 2009 with the Professional Achievement Award, and in 2015, they were inducted into the University of Nevada, Reno Honor Court as Founders. The couple has two children, Eda, a 2013 graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, and Kerem, a current University of Nevada, Reno student.