



Honorary Degree

Nomination Form

1. Degree to be Awarded:

___Honorary Doctorate XXHonorary Baccalaureate ___Honorary Associate

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

Dennis Parks

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.)

This academic year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the TUSCARORA POTTERY SCHOOL. Elko County resident Dennis Parks established the school in the community of Tuscarora. Since that time, Dennis has made tremendous contributions to the arts and culture of Elko County and the entire state of Nevada. His impact on ceramic arts has reached all corners of planet Earth and has been shared with Presidents of the United States and foreign leaders in countries throughout Europe and Asia.

Dennis Parks' work is included in public collections around the world, including England, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Russia, Germany, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Turkey, Uzbekistan, China, Korea, Japan and Canada. In the United States, his work is included in the permanent collections of the Arizona State University Museum of Art, the Northern Arizona University Museum, the Denver Art Museum, the Scripps College Lang Gallery, and the Nevada Museum of Art.

Additionally, his work has been displayed in international and national public exhibitions around the world including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

Dennis has made considerable contributions to the academic world as well, starting the ceramic departments at Knox College in Illinois, and Pitzer College – a member of the Claremont Colleges, in Claremont, California. He has also presented and lectured throughout the United States and abroad, and has often shared his wisdom and skills with students at Great Basin College.

He is the author of several books and anthologies, including A POTTERS GUIDE TO RAW GLAZING AND OIL FIRING, LIVING IN THE COUNTRY GROWING WEIRD and AN ALIEN AMONG ANXIOUS ARTISTS, the latter two published by the University of Nevada Press. He served as the curriculum chair for the National Council of Education in the Ceramic Arts and was elected to membership in the International Academy of Ceramics. In 1990 he was honored with the Governor's Arts Award in the state of Nevada.

Nearly 1,000 students have studied at the Tuscarora Pottery School over the decades contributing to the economic health of Elko County. Dennis' presence in Tuscarora provided the foundation to inspire dozens of potters, painters and poets to reside in the community providing the catalyst for the exponential growth of arts and culture in northern Nevada.

Significantly, the Tuscarora Pottery School has endured for decades longer than any single mining operation in the Tuscarora Mining District. Dennis has demonstrated clearly the impact, importance and sustainability of the arts in Elko County and Nevada.

Mark A. Curtis	January 30, 2017
_____ President	_____ Date
Great Basin College	
_____ Institution	

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