NORTHEAST OHIO MEDICAL UNIVERSITY | ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2027 Alumni Awards

Nomination Guide

Nominations due November 30, 2026

About the Alumni Awards

The Alumni Association established these awards to recognize alumni and friends for their service and volunteer work with the University, the health professions and the local community.

- **Honoring the select few** whose accomplishments rise above those of most, often influencing industry, innovation, science or research nationally or globally.
- **Celebrating impact** in recipients' professions, their communities and at NEOMED.

Award Categories

Please note: Awards which list that they honor a NEOMED graduate are reserved for NEOMED alumni.

Lifetime Achievement Award

PRESENTED INTERMITTENTLY

- Recognizes exemplary lifetime service to the individual's profession, NEOMED and/or the NEOMED Alumni Association.

Distinguished Service Award

PRESENTED ANNUALLY

- Honors an individual whose time and talents have made a significant impact on the University.
- Impact may come through teaching, mentoring, volunteering or working for NEOMED.

Distinguished Alumni Award

THE HIGHEST HONOR NEOMED BESTOWS ON ITS GRADUATES

- Recognizes a NEOMED graduate who has transcended the role of health care provider to lead in research, service or education.
- Awarded for notable accomplishments in research, or exemplary achievement in areas such as leadership, community service, teaching/education and volunteerism.

Alumni Association Appreciation Award

PRESENTED INTERMITTENTLY

- Honors individuals whose volunteer time has made a significant impact on the Alumni Association and the work of its Board of Directors.

Emerging Leader Award

FOR NEOMED GRADUATES WITHIN 15 YEARS OF GRADUATION

- Recognizes a NEOMED graduate with significant record of accomplishment in clinical practice, patient advocacy, research, education and/or administrative leadership.
- Candidates also exemplify the core values of NEOMED.

Considering a Nomination

A strong nominee meets the criteria for the selected award. Before you submit, please consider whether the nominee:

- **Would be comfortable with public recognition.** Recipients are recognized publicly by NEOMED, including through event communications, websites and social media.
- **Would be willing and able to return to campus.** Attending the Alumni Awards celebration is an important part of the recognition, and recipients are strongly encouraged to return to Rootstown, Ohio.

Nominators are **not** expected to confirm these details with the nominee but should have a reasonable sense that the nominee would welcome the recognition and be able to participate.

Nomination Guidelines

- **Who may nominate.** Individuals (including non-alumni) and NEOMED colleges and units. Self-nominations are welcome.
- **Nominators do not influence selection.** A nominator's title, position, affiliation or relationship to the nominee carries no added weight, so nominations should come from those who can best speak to the nominee's qualifications. Nominations are typically reviewed without the nominator's name attached.
- **What makes a strong nomination.** A clear, well-organized picture of the nominee's accomplishments and how they meet the award criteria.

Nomination Requirements

Please have the following ready to submit a nomination:

1	**Award category.** The category for which the nominee should be considered.
2	**Nominee contact information.** A current primary email address and/or phone number. The Alumni Office will use this to reach selected recipients.
3	**Brief summary (about 250 words or fewer).** The heart of your nomination. Introduce the nominee, make the case that they meet the award criteria, and draw together their accomplishments, using the cases for nomination as supporting evidence.
4	**Three to five cases for nomination.** Supporting materials that show why the nominee should be considered (see below).
5	**Nominator information.** Your contact information. The Alumni Office may follow up with questions.

What Is a Case for Nomination?

Cases are the supporting materials that give the selection committee the evidence to evaluate a nomination against the award criteria. We ask nominators to submit three to five thoughtfully curated cases that, together, show:

- **Qualifications for the award:** how the nominee exemplifies the criteria, including relevant accomplishments, contributions and impact.
- **What the nominee has done,** rather than general statements. Where possible, name specific activities, roles and contributions.

A case can be:

Biography
NARRATIVE

- Relevant information about the nominee's accomplishments, impact and/or qualifications for the award.

Relevant article or story
PRINT OR ONLINE

- An article featuring the nominee that offers substantive information relevant to the nomination.

Letter of support

- Should come from those who can best speak to the nominee's qualifications. The writer's title or affiliation adds no weight.
- We recommend reviewing letters before submitting; vague or generic letters do not strengthen a nomination.

Collection of supplemental links
ONE DOCUMENT, MULTIPLE LINKS

- Links to articles, videos, biographies, social media posts or other sources on the nominee's accomplishments.
- Prioritize quality over quantity: choose materials that contribute meaningfully to the nomination.

Good to know: Ask cases do not exceed 500 words (published articles and stories excepted) and must be submitted as a URL (link to online location) or a document (.doc. .docx or .pdf file type).

How to Submit a Nomination

- **Submit online.** All nominations are submitted through an online nomination form. Go to neomed.edu/alumni/association/awards to find the nomination forms.
- **Use a desktop or laptop computer.** The form includes written responses and document uploads that are easier to complete on a larger screen.
- **Gather your materials first.** It is helpful to gather the letters, links, and/or articles you want to share, before starting the form.

2027 Nomination & Selection Timeline

November 30, 2026	**Nomination deadline**
By end of January 2027	Selected recipients are notified and invited to accept their Alumni Award. Nominators are **not** notified if their nominee is not selected.
By end of February 2027	Recipients are announced and publicized

Questions?

We're happy to help. Please contact the Alumni Office:
Email: alumnioffice@neomed.edu
Phone: 330-325-6662