



ROBERT H. ALBERT LIFETIME COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Nomination Form

Nominee

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

About the Nominee:

On a separate sheet, describe the nominee, listing how he/she meets the award criteria.

Supporting Documents:

Please contact 1-2 individuals to supply supporting documentation to accompany your nomination form. Support documents can take the form of letters, emails, news articles, etc.

Submission:

Return completed nominations to:

Lisa Dobbins, Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce
515 N. Washington Ave., 3rd Floor, Saginaw, MI 48607
or by email to lisa@saginawchamber.org

Nomination deadline is April 30th

Nominations received after that time will be considered for the following year.

May 16, 2022

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Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce
Attention: Awards Committee
515 N Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor
Saginaw, MI 48607

Re: Recommendation for the Robert H. Albert Lifetime Community Service Award

Dear Service Award Committee:

I am pleased to nominate Dr. Donald Bachand for the **2022 Robert H. Albert Lifetime Community Service Award** in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

After serving on the Detroit Police Department, President Bachand joined SVSU as one of its founding criminal justice professors in 1978. He later became dean of the College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences and then served as SVSU's provost and vice president for academic affairs prior to the presidency. President Bachand was appointed Saginaw Valley State University's fourth president in February 2014.

Under President Bachand's leadership, SVSU has significantly grown private financial support from donors, increased retention and graduation rates for students, and elevated SVSU's standing as a community-engaged university.

In February of 2020, President Bachand led a private fundraising campaign that resulted in the construction of a building addition for the Carmona College of Business. SVSU raised more than \$15 million in private gifts and received nearly \$10 million in capital outlay funding from the State of Michigan for the \$25.4 million project. Under President Bachand's leadership, SVSU has played a vital role in preparing business professionals for our region and our state and the facility will benefit the community for generations to come.

In December 2020, President Bachand also secured the largest single gift in university history -- \$6 million from the Thompson Family Foundation -- to support scholarships for students from working families. The number of private scholarships awarded to students has more than doubled, from 729 in the 2013-14 academic year to more than 1,700 this year.

SVSU introduced several new academic programs during President Bachand's presidency in response to job market demand and community needs. These programs include: a Master of Social Work program in 2017; bachelor's and master's degree programs for public health; a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation medicine in 2018; created a post-graduate certificate program for psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners in 2019 (the program already has received more than \$5 million in federal grants to prepare nurse practitioners to respond to substance use disorders and mental health needs in underserved communities).

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In 2022, three new programs of study were added: Bachelor of Arts in Black Studies, Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Sustainability.

SVSU recently celebrated a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at SVSU's Downtown Saginaw Riverfront location. As part of President Bachand's vision, this location allows SVSU to host university and community events, trainings and classes. SVSU's Professional Development team utilizes this location for various workshops, programs, and training.

President Bachand has expanded SVSU's international relationships during his tenure, opening a campus of Ming Chuan University, based in Taiwan, on SVSU's main campus in 2014. At the time, it was the only collaboration in Michigan where an Asian university had a physical campus in the state; Ming Chuan continues to operate programs in SVSU's Gilbertson Hall. In addition, President Bachand and his wife, Liana, supported the construction of the Royal Seed Home clinic in Ghana, West Africa, that opened in December 2020. Nursing students and faculty in SVSU's College of Health & Human Services will have opportunities for study abroad experiences in global health at the clinic in the coming years.

Under President Bachand's leadership, SVSU has been nationally recognized for its commitment to employees, military-affiliated students and others. SVSU was the only public university in Michigan to be named a Great College to Work For in 2019, 2020, and 2021; it has earned the honor for six consecutive years. The university also has been recognized as a "Best for Vets" college by Military Times for seven consecutive years.

In 2015, SVSU earned the distinction of receiving the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, marking SVSU as an exceptionally engaged university with the communities it serves. Less than 10 percent of U.S. colleges and universities have achieved this designation.

President Bachand's steadfast leadership was especially influential during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. President Bachand stepped up immediately and demonstrated exceptional guidance, putting together a great team to navigate incredibly complex and rapidly changing conditions. SVSU successfully maintained university operations while prioritizing very high levels of health and safety on campus throughout the pandemic. The university also responded to public health needs in our community by hosting numerous COVID-19 vaccination events, administering nearly 50,000 vaccine doses on campus to individuals in the surrounding community.

Throughout the years, President Bachand has been involved with the Saginaw County Crime prevention initiative which meets monthly at SVSU. The group's mission is to build partnerships between law enforcement and the community, empower citizens through crime prevention education, and promote an environment in which people act individually and collectively to prevent crime and build a safer Saginaw County. President Bachand is well-known and respected

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in the law enforcement community throughout the region. Many of the individuals in this profession were students of President Bachand's in the 1970s, 80s and '90s.

Over the years, President Bachand has been active in numerous professional and community service organizations and an avid supporter of the regional arts community. He is a tremendous role model and mentor for our community, and he is always extremely generous with his advice and guidance to support good causes in the region. Over the years, his support and advice have helped shape professional careers and build business success in the area, which has tremendously impacted the Great Lakes Bay Region.

President Bachand is proud of his roots in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Throughout the years, he has truly dedicated his life to the growth of others and the community. This award would be a tremendous honor for President Bachand as he winds down an extraordinary career.

Sincerely,



JoAnn Crary, CECd, FM, HLM
President