



**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., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Saginaw, MI 48607  
or by email to [lisa@saginawchamber.org](mailto:lisa@saginawchamber.org)

Nomination deadline is June 9, 2023

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

To whom it may concern:

I want to nominate Terry Duperon for the Robert H. Albert Community Service Award. For more than six decades, Terry has been an integral part of the Saginaw business community as an inventor, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and mentor.

Terry's inventiveness and entrepreneurial spirit have enabled the company he founded, Duperon Corporation, to rise from humble beginnings in a garage next to his Saginaw home to become a leader in the water and wastewater industry. Despite his success, Terry remains committed to his roots, generously giving his time to support the next generation of entrepreneurs and local businesses.

Duperon has been a vital part of the Saginaw business community for nearly 40 years. The company designs and manufactures solutions for water, wastewater, and industrial applications. Throughout his career, Terry's focus on innovation has earned him 17 patents and helped Duperon become the leader in preliminary liquid/solids separation systems. In addition, the company, which has seen continuous growth for the last 13 years, remains headquartered in Saginaw and employs 70 people from the local area.

Terry faced many challenges on his entrepreneurial journey. As a child, he looked up to Eli Whitney, Thomas Edison, and Henry Ford. Despite having dyslexia, he was determined to become an inventor like his heroes. He credits his dream for helping him find a different path to success. Terry gives back to the community through education, mentorship, and networking programs, sharing his knowledge and experience to help others achieve their professional and personal dreams.

A few of the programs founded by Terry:

**Duperon Education.** Terry started Duperon Education 20 years ago to inspire students to pursue their dreams and live fulfilling lives without regret. Its signature program, THE CLASS, teaches entrepreneurial strategy, creative thinking, and embracing your talents. THE CLASS has been held in several Great Lakes Bay region locations, reaching more than 3,000 attendees. Additionally, in 2018, the program was offered at the PALI New Year Entrepreneurship School in Ghana, Africa, and continues to be offered there twice a year.

**Dare to Dream.** Terry is passionate about supporting young entrepreneurs. Three years ago, he began Dare to Dream, an annual event for students aged 12-16 in Saginaw County with entrepreneurial aspirations. Local youth pitch their ideas to the Dare to Dream board with the possibility of earning a cash prize.

**One DEGREE Club.** In early 2023, Terry founded the One DEGREE Club, a networking group that brings together individuals seeking support as they pursue their personal and professional dreams. The group is open to people in the Great Lakes Bay area.

Terry also founded TLD Holdings, an organization that supports local businesses and entrepreneurs, helping them grow and thrive while creating jobs for people in the area. TLD Holdings supports K's Café, Performance Learning, Inc., Creative Lane, The Bread Gal, Madd Marketing, Duperon Millworks, and Duperon Education.

Having dyslexia has been one of the defining experiences in Terry's life and fueled his passion to become an inventor. He serves on the board of Children's Choice Initiative, an organization focused on improving the curriculum and literacy rates for all types of learners. In addition, he works with Priscilla Dseagu, a special needs educator who is transforming education for children with disabilities in Ghana. Together, they opened the Duperon Learning Center for Children with Special Needs to provide educational opportunities tailored to each child's needs. In each of these endeavors, Terry hopes to empower young children to pursue their dreams and instill in them the belief that anything is possible.

In closing, Terry's contributions to the water and wastewater industry and the Saginaw business community make him an ideal candidate for this award.

Please see attached recommendations in support of this nomination:

- Ronald W. Beebe, Chairman, and CEO, Euclid Industries, Inc.
- Dr. Don Steele, special assistant to the president, Saginaw Valley State University
- Dr. Joseph Ofori-Dankwa, Professor of International Management, Saginaw Valley State University

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Tori Andrews

[tori@boehagency.com](mailto:tori@boehagency.com)

404.406.6607

June 2, 2023

The Selection Committee

Robert H. Albert Lifetime Community Service Award

Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce

Dear Chairperson,

**Nomination of Terry Duperon for the 2023 Robert H. Albert Lifetime Community Service Award.**

I wish to nominate Terry Duperon, Chairman, of the Duperon Corporation for the 2023 Robert H. Albert Lifetime Community Service Award.

The Robert H. Albert Community Service Award recognizes and honors an individual for a lifetime of service to both the community and their profession. The individual should particularly highly embody the spirit of community engagement and collaborative partnerships as well as providing the highest level of professionalism and expertise in their profession. Terry Duperon strongly fits this award profile and deserves this award for several reasons.

First, I can personally attest that Terry has devoted a lifetime to supporting numerous organizations and people of the Saginaw County. He has reached out to several organizations and provided extensive mentoring and financial resources. For example, Terry has been active, helpful and very supportive of community centered organizations such as First Ward Community Center, and the Saginaw African American Festival. For example, he has helped First Ward Community Center to sponsor several young students to travel to Ghana. He has consistently mentored and been very available and accessible to several young people from diverse backgrounds..

Second, Terry, through his corporation, the Duperon Corporation, has been able to transform the water and wastewater industry. The Duperon Corporation has been a leading innovative corporation in the water industry. Terry has been awarded several engineering and water filtering patents. In addition, the Duperon Corporation has won several State of Michigan and National awards for innovation in the field.

Third, Terry has been a blessing to numerous people in Ghana.. In 2018, he visited Ghana and provided series of powerful workshops in Ghana sharing his expertise about entrepreneurship and "Growing your Dreams". He subsequently mentored several Ghanaian youths, including Frank Paa Kumi, the Founder of the Passionate African Leadership Institute (PALI). PALI has successfully collaborated with Terry and undertaken numerous entrepreneurship workshops. Terry also provided substantial funding to bring Priscila Dseague, a doctoral student learning about effectively teaching kids with neurodiversity to visit several educational institutions in the United States, to learn about cutting edge teaching methods. Terry subsequently helps Priscilla to successfully set up the Duperon Center for Dyslexia in Ghana.

Fourth, Terry has set up an educational institute, the Duperon Education and has been mentoring and teaching potential entrepreneurs in our Saginaw and Great Lakes Bay Regional community how to activate their God given entrepreneurial skills and abilities. Most recently, Terry has successfully set up an innovative, community centered organization, One Degree, that encourages people from diverse backgrounds to collaborate and help each other to achieve their dreams. For example, through the One Degree, I met Rhonda Alexia Webb, the Founder of Kids Rule Now, an organization that provides business skills to young entrepreneurs to help them grow their businesses. Through this collaboration with Rhonda, the Vitito Fellows from the Scott L. Carmona College of Business were able to work with young 13-year-old entrepreneurs and help them to substantially enhance their speaking and business skills

In recognition and acknowledgement of Terry's consistent and substantial community engagement and professionalism over several years, he has received several community related and professional awards. Some of the more recent awards include: Outstanding Leadership Award, Michigan Banner, 2019; 2017 Outstanding Entrepreneur Award, SVSU Carmona College of Business, the Heart of the City Outstanding Business Award, 2019; the MFG Innovation Excellence award, 2021; Economic Excellence Award, Saginaw Futures, 2019; Top 10 of "Coolest Things, Made in Michigan, 2021", Michigan Manufacturer's Association

Given the above, I sincerely think that Terry Duperon is deserving of the 2023 Thomson Award for Empowering Learning in Community Engagement. I am therefore pleased and honored to nominate Terry for this award.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph Ofori-Dankwa.

H..R.Wickes Professor of International Business,

Professor of Management,

Saginaw Valley State University

**DUPERON AWARDS:**

Economic Excellence Award for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2013, 2019, Saginaw Future  
Michigan's 50 Companies to Watch, 2006  
Michigan Economic Bright Spot Award, 2008, *Corp!* Magazine  
Michigan Manufacturer of the Year Award, 2008, Michigan Manufacturer's Association  
Best of Michigan Business Award, 2011, *Corp!* Magazine  
Outstanding Investment in Saginaw County Award, 2014, Saginaw Future  
Innovation and Leadership to Enhance the Michigan Entrepreneurial Environment, 2014, Mid-Michigan Innovation Center  
Succession Success Award, 2017, Best of MichBusiness Awards & Gala  
Michigan 50 Companies to Watch Distinguished Alumni Award—Most Engaged Workplace, 2019  
Heart of the City Outstanding Business Award, Michigan Banner, 2019  
MFG Innovation Excellence Award, Michigan Manufacturer's Association, 2021  
Top 10 of "Coolest Things Made in Michigan 2021, Dual Auger System, Michigan Manufacturer's Association, 2021

**PERSONAL AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:**

Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame, Inductee, 2009  
Dr. Samuel H. Shaheen Vision of Free Enterprise Award, Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, 2010  
Entrepreneur of Distinction Award, *Corp* Magazine, 2010  
Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Semifinalist, Ernst & Young, 2011  
Achievement Award, Women of Colors, 2016  
Honored for Continuous Commitment and Support, Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute, 2017  
Outstanding Leadership Award, Michigan Banner, 2019  
Outstanding Entrepreneur Award, SVSU, College of Business and Management, 2017

**PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC AFFILIATIONS:**

Michigan Manufacturer's Association, Member  
Saginaw Valley Manufacturer's Association, Board Member, Past President  
NFIB, Member  
Saginaw Chamber of Commerce, Member  
SERA Club, Member  
Children's Choice Initiative, Board Member  
The Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc., Board of Governors

**BOOKS & ARTICLES**

Innovation Blog, MLive Business, Author  
*A Different Ability and Dare to Be Different*, Author  
*Misfit Millionaire*, Co-author  
*Glimpses of God's Grace*, Author

“Saginaw’s Duperon keeps growing and growing,” mLIVE Michigan, February 13, 2011.

([https://www.mlive.com/business/mid-michigan/2011/02/saginaws\\_duperon\\_keeps\\_growing.html](https://www.mlive.com/business/mid-michigan/2011/02/saginaws_duperon_keeps_growing.html))

“Saginaw innovator’s lesson: Let your people dream,” mLIVE Michigan, November 15, 2010.

([https://www.mlive.com/business/mid-michigan/2010/11/saginaw\\_innovators\\_lesson\\_let.html](https://www.mlive.com/business/mid-michigan/2010/11/saginaw_innovators_lesson_let.html))

## **Robert H. Albert Lifetime Community Service Award Nomination**

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to recommend Terry Duperon to the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce Robert H. Albert Lifetime Community Service Award. I have had the pleasure of working with Terry over the past three years, pretty much on a daily basis. Recently, I authored and published his compelling life story in the book titled, *The Misfit Millionaire*. So at this point, I probably know Terry as well as anybody, except for his wife, Leslie - or his administrative assistant, Cindy.

After founding and building the Duperon Corporation into the successful business that it is, coupled with his daughter, Tammy Bernier, he has launched several partnerships that enable people to exercise their entrepreneurial spirit. Under the title TLD Holdings, headed by Andrea Sanchez, Terry has provided start-up funds for (at last count) seven new businesses. He has partnered with me on Performance Learning Inc.

Terry and I have many philosophical and spiritual conversations around the bigger questions in life. Is there a God? Is there life after death? As well as smaller questions such as: What is martinizing? And why does it take an hour? Terry enjoys running around on his conceptual playground, always focusing on the importance of having a dream and pursuing that dream with vigor. In doing so, he has positively impacted the lives of not only people from the Saginaw community, but also people as far away as Africa.

Terry is a role model for dyslexics and others that have what might be limiting factors in their lives. He is a living example of positivity, perseverance, and resilience. Emboldened by his faith in God, Terry embodies what this award recognizes, in that his lifetime has been filled with efforts to improve the personal and professional lives of those around him. Without reservation, I fully and whole-heartedly support the nomination of Terry Duperon for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Donald Steele, PhD

Terry Duperon

This is to support Terry Duperon, a candidate for the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Robert H Albert Lifetime Community Service Award.

Terry Duperon is man of God. He recognizes that the events of life, perceived as both beneficial and not, as they occur, overtime help mold the person that we each become. Born with a malady, known as Dyslexia, which seventy plus years later still impacts Terry's existence, he now recognizes and lists it as a catalyst to the successful person he has become. His message for those he comes in contact, here and elsewhere like Accra, Ghana, can be summed up with two premises he often shares: "I would rather fail than not try" and "Run with what you got, success has nothing to do with what you're not."

Terry's life has been about making this world a better place for all. His inventions and business improve water quality with simple solutions to complex issues. His entrepreneurial spirit nurtures and grows new enterprises. Duperon Education encourages students of all ages to create, imagine, think differently and dream. The books he has co-authored do the same.

Terry Duperon is an inspiration for me and many others to emulate.

Ronald W. Beebe  
Chairman and CEO  
Euclid Industries, Inc.