Charles Duncan McIver Award

Purpose:

The Charles Duncan McIver Award is the University’s highest award for service to the state or nation. It was established to recognize North Carolinians who have made especially meritorious contributions or have rendered unusually distinguished public service.

Established in 1983, the award is in the form of a medal bearing the likeness of Charles Duncan McIver and is known as the “McIver Medal” in honor of the University’s founder.

Background:

Charles Duncan McIver founded in 1891 the State Normal and Industrial School for Girls, now known as the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He served as the University’s first president. After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he became a teacher and a crusader for higher education for women. In an era when the doors to colleges and universities were closed to women, he soon became one of the leading advocates for educational reform. He promoted the cause of education throughout not just the state, but also the entire region, and brought about an increased respect for the teaching profession.

In addition to his duties at the college, McIver held offices in many professional organizations. He was president of the Southern Education Association and of the Normal School Department of the National Education Association. He served as secretary and district director of the Southern Education Board. Later he was chosen as to be a member of the Board of Trustees for the University of North Carolina. McIver was also considered as a candidate for governor of North Carolina and for president of the University of North Carolina. However, he refused to allow his name to be submitted for either nomination, choosing instead to remain at his post in Greensboro.

McIver passed away in 1906 while riding a campaign train with William Jennings Bryan. Upon his death, children in schools across the state donated pennies to erect a statue of him on the capitol grounds. He is the only person honored in North Carolina’s Capitol Square who was not a political or military leader.
McIver Medal Recipients

2018 – Luther Hodges, community leader
2017 – Joseph M. Bryan, Jr., Philanthropist and Community Leader
2016 – Tom Ross, Former UNC System president
2015 – Fred Chappell, Poet Laureate of North Carolina
2014 – Kathy E. Manning, community advocate
2013 – Maggie Jeffus, ’70 MEd, N.C. Representative
2012 – Martha Hendrix Kaley ’80 MEd
2011 – Sue Woodall Cole, Business Leader
2010 – Stanley & Doris Tanger, Philanthropic Leaders
2009 – Ann Goodnight, Philanthropic and Volunteer Leader
2008 – No award presented
2007 – James B. Hunt, Governor, North Carolina
2006 – Hugh M. Morton, Conservationist and Preservationist
2005 – E. S. “Jim” Melvin, President, The Bryan Foundation
2004 – Don Cameron, President, Guilford Technical Community College
2002 – Dennis Barry, President & CEO, Moses Cone Medical System
2001 – Charles Hamner, President & CEO, North Carolina Biotechnology Center
2000 – Thomas W. Lambeth, Executive Director, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
1999 – Gerhardt Zimmerman, Maestro, North Carolina Symphony
1998 – John Hope Franklin, Professor, Duke University
1997 – Terry Sanford, Governor and Senator, North Carolina
1996 – Barton A. Parks, Professor of Justice and Policy, Guilford College
1995 – C. Stewart Rogers, Healthserve Medical Center; Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro


1993 – No Award Presented

1992 – William C. Friday, President, The University of North Carolina System

1991 – L. Richardson Preyer, Congressman, United States Congress


1989 – Bland W. Worley, Board Chairman, Barclays American Corporation

1988 – Martha K. Sharpless, Chief of Pediatric Teaching Service, Moses Cone Hospital

1987 – Archie K. Davis, Board Chairman, Wachovia Corporation

1986 – Henry E. Frye, Chief Justice, North Carolina Supreme Court

1985 – Susie Marshall Sharpe, Chief Justice, North Carolina Supreme Court