DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Established in 1985, the Department of Economics Distinguished Alumnus award recognizes an alumnus or alumna whose professional achievements and cumulative contributions have brought personal distinction, enhanced the profession, improved the welfare of the general public, and brought honor to their alma mater.

The award is presented each June at the economics undergraduate graduation celebration, at which time the awardee delivers the commencement address. The selection committee, comprised of Department leadership and members of the Economics Visiting Committee, strive to distribute the award equally between academic and industry leaders.

The Department is proud to have many distinguished alumni among its thousands of graduates. Collectively, our alumni have had a profound impact in the public and private sectors of the state, the nation, and the world. Indeed, the following list includes leaders from all walks of life representing the breadth and depth of a liberal arts education in training future trailblazers.

2018 ECONOMICS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Jeff Roe,
UW Economics BA ‘88
President and Chief Executive Officer at Premera Blue Cross

PAST AWARDEES:

2017 Gita Gopinath,
UW Economics MA ‘96
Harvard Univiersty John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and of Economics

2016 Timothy Jenkins,
UW Economics BA ‘86
Co-Founder, Point B

2015 Dr. Richard Sutch
UW Economics BA ‘63
Dr. George N. Carlson
UW Economics BA '64
Former Director, Deloitte Tax LLP

Dr. Suzanne Scotchmer (deceased)
UW Economics BA '70
Professor of Economics, Law, and Public Policy, UC Berkeley

Dr. Charles C. Cox, BA '67
Senior Vice President, Compass Lexecon

Dr. Curtis R. Taylor, BA '86
Professor of Economics, Duke University

Robert M. McKenna, BA '85
Former Attorney General, Washington State

Dr. Robert J. Willis, PhD '71
Professor of Economics, University of Michigan

Haruyuki Niimi (deceased), BA '59
Chairman & President, Showa Shell Sekiyu, Tokyo

Alan D. Frazier, BA '75
Managing Partner, Frazier Healthcare

Stanley Savage, BA '67
Chairman, President, & CEO, The Commerce Bank
Founding member, Economics Visiting Committee

Dr. Robert L. Joss, BA '63
Former Dean, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University

Kathy Gehrt (deceased), MA '77, BA '75
Executive, AT&T

Dr. Thomas E. MaCurdy, BA '73
Professor of Economics, Stanford University

Bryan C. Cressey, BA '72
President, Cressey & Co.

Gary L. Waterman, MA '68, BA '65
President, Waterman Limited

Stanley H. Barer, BA '61, JD '63
Chairman Emeritus, Saltchuk Resources Inc.

Robert R. Richards, BA '61
Founder, President, and CEO of The Commerce Bank

Stanley G. Freimuth, BA '70
Executive Officer, Ragen Mackenzie Group (retired)

Hon. R. B. Hutchinson, BA '63
Justice, Supreme Court of British Columbia

1996, Dr. Andrew F. Brimmer (*deceased*), MA ’51, BA ’50
Governor, U.S. Federal Reserve Board

1995 Hon. Helen Sommers, MA ’70, BA ’69
House Representative, Washington State Legislature

1994 Dr. Douglass C. North, Faculty
Professor of Economics, Nobel Prize in Economics

1993, J. Parker Sroufe, BA ’64
Chairman, WebSea Group

1992 Dr. Grover W. Ensley, BA ’37
United States Senate

1991 David Williams, BA ’64
Vice-chairman, Security Pacific Bank Washington

1990 Norman K. Maleng (*deceased*), BA ’60
Seattle City Prosecutor

1989 James O. York (*deceased*), MA ’50, BA ’49
Real Estate Developer

1988 H. Jon Runstad, BA ’65
Co-founder, Chairman & CEO, Wright Runstad and Co

1987 Bruce A. Nordstrom, BA ’55
Chairman, Nordstrom Inc. (retired)

1986 Robert J. Behnke (*deceased*), BA ’43
Chairman, R.E.B. Enterprises

1985 John D. Mangels, BA ’50
Former Chairman & CEO, Security Pacific Bank Washington

You may also be interested in our [notable alumni](https://econ.washington.edu/distinguished-alumnus-award).