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**2015 Sonoma State University Distinguished Alumni Awards
Two Public Figures Honored for Their Achievements**

Rohnert Park, Calif. (May 19, 2014) — With the announcement of its 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards, the Sonoma State University Alumni Association recognizes two individuals on opposite coasts with demonstrated commitments to serving the public good: California State Senator Mike McGuire and Sandra Jackson-Dumont, the chairperson of education at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The recipients will be honored in the fall at a private reception hosted by university President Ruben Armíñana, Ph.D.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards Program is a symbol of achievement and success presented to distinguished alumni from Sonoma State's six academic colleges. Since 1988, the awards applaud the most prestigious graduates for their professional achievements, contributions to society, and support of the university. Up to four honorees may be chosen each year.

The [Sonoma State Alumni Association](#) encourages nominations year round. A selection committee makes its determinations based on several criteria including a record of distinction and accomplishment in his/her field, and a demonstrated leadership and service to his/her profession as well as the community and society at large.

Sandra Jackson-Dumont (BA Art History, 1994) has lead successful educational programs in art history at some of the nations leading institutions. She has been the chairman of education at The [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) since May 2014. Earlier appointments include service at the Seattle Art Museum, Studio Museum in Harlem, and Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

"Sandra is a visionary, highly respected educator who has been connecting art and audiences at museums on the East and West Coasts for a number of years," said Thomas P. Campbell, the director and CEO of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Mike McGuire (BA Political Science, 2002) is a third-generation Northern Californian whose family farmed Sonoma County's Alexander Valley for nearly a half century. A tireless advocate of the environment, he has represented the [Second Senate District](#) since December 2014. McGuire was elected to the Healdsburg School Board at 19 years of age and served on the Healdsburg City Council in 2004 as the youngest mayor in city history. He was a member of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors from 2011 to 2015.

"Mike McGuire had a drive for public service long before he walked in the door at Sonoma State," said Molly Rattigan, a Distinguished Alumni committee member and the Alumni Association vice president. "The legislation to establish Sonoma State was introduced by my grandfather, State Senator Joseph Rattigan, so it is fitting that a state senator should be honored in this manner some 55 years later."

About Sonoma State University

[Sonoma State University](#) is a public liberal arts college located one hour from San Francisco in the Northern California wine country, and is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Situated below the western slope of Sonoma Mountain, Sonoma State has 9,300 undergraduate and graduate students and is among the most popular campuses in the California State University system. Named a "Most Wired" campus by *The Princeton Review* and a "Best Regional University" by *U.S. News & World Report*, the university was first in the country to offer an undergraduate degree in Wine Business.

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