

Harold Spooner '75

Harold Spooner from the Class of 1975 was an athletic leader in the early '70s at Houghton, leading the basketball team for all four seasons of his time here. After lighting up the scoreboard with over 1,350 points, and shattering records to become the first men's basketball athlete to eclipse 1,000 points, he earned the college's first All-American distinction (NAIA Honorable Mention in 1974). To this day, Harold is ranked No. 6 in all-time scoring at Houghton, and was welcomed into the athletics Hall of Honor inaugural class in 1994. His contributions to Houghton College's intercollegiate athletic history are commemorated on the 50th-anniversary mural, which will be unveiled and dedicated this weekend inside the Kerr-Pegula Field House.

He has continued to be a model for student-athletes, coaching basketball and football in his free time and using his classroom and athletic knowledge to demonstrate how valuable athletes can be to education. His service at Young Life, a global nonprofit that connects adults with adolescents in order to share the news of Jesus Christ, provided him the opportunity to teach a younger generation that academics and athletics can work in tandem. In the words of Skip Lord, executive director of intercollegiate athletics at Houghton, Harold "models what we wish for in all of our student-athletes."

Harold holds a master's degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and a bachelor's degree in physical education teaching and coaching from Houghton, and has carried his commitments to education and ministry into his career, not only at Young life but also as director of diversity, associate dean, and associate director of admissions at the Stony Brook School on Long Island. He is the current executive vice president of community impact at Covenant Retirement Communities' Covenant Home in Chicago, using his love of service to provide exceptional care and programming for senior citizens.

His impact for the Kingdom through outstanding service – be it as a member of the basketball team and demonstrating Godly principles or working with Young Life – makes Harold a prime example of a graduate deserving of the Christian Service Award. Today, on the 7th of October 2016, we honor Rev. Harold Spooner with the Houghton College Christian Service Award.