

# WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, February 6, 2023

8:30 AM

### REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 754 018 1608

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**Meeting Called By:** David Tuttle (Chair)

**Minutes:** Nikki Kapurch

**Board Members:** Lisa Colombo (Vice-Chair); Aleta Fazzone; Karen Lafond; William Mosley; Dina Nichols; Amy Peterson; Maureen Power; Emma Polak; Marina Taylor (Vice-Chair); David Tuttle (Chair); Lawrence Sasso

**WSU Staff:** Barry Maloney; Nikki Kapurch; Carl Herrin; Stacey Luster; Tom McNamara

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All documents considered to be **drafts** until discussed and/or approved by the Board

AGENDA		
ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	ACTION
1. A. Call to Order	David Tuttle	
2. <i>Administrative Business</i> A. Approval of Nominees for Speaker/Awards Pool* B. Current Pool for Commencement Speakers and Award Recipients* C. Approval of Commencement Speaker Honorary Degree Memo* D. Approval of Honorary Degrees for 2023*	David Tuttle President Maloney	A. <b>vote required</b> B. <b>informational</b>  C. <b>vote required</b>  D. <b>(2) votes required</b>
3. <i>Adjournment</i>	David Tuttle	3. <b>vote required</b>

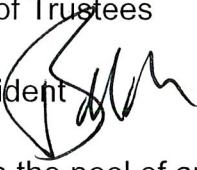
\*Attachments



# WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

President's Office  
Phone: 508-929-8020  
Fax: 508-929-8191  
Email: [bmaloney@worchester.edu](mailto:bmaloney@worchester.edu)

TO: Members, WSU Board of Trustees

FROM: Barry M. Maloney, President 

RE: Names to be included in the pool of approved speakers and award recipients

DATE: January 19, 2023

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A call to solicit nominations for commencement speaker, honorary degree recipients, and community service awards is sent to the campus community at the beginning of each academic year. Nominations can be made by direct submission to the Speakers and Awards committee at <http://wwwfac.worcester.edu/speaker> and are accepted throughout the year through. They are evaluated by the Speakers and Awards Committee on a rolling basis; applications are reviewed during both the Fall and Spring semesters. The committee then develops a list to recommend to the All-University Committee which then forwards all finalists as recommendations to the president. Final approval is granted by the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation by the president. Attached is a list of my recommendations for commencement speaker, honorary degree, and community service award recipients, for inclusion in the pool of approved speakers and award recipients.

**Biographical Summaries**  
**Candidates Approves by the Speaker and Awards Committee**  
*(In alphabetical order)*

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**H.E. Hajia Alima Mahama**

***Commencement Speaker***

Her Excellency Hajia Alia Mahama is Ghana's ambassador to the US. She was appointed in June 2021. She is a product of Ghana Law School and was called to the bar in 1982. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Development Studies with a specialization in Regional Development Planning from the Institute of Social Studies, the Hague on the Netherlands. Ambassador Mahama is a Humphrey Fellow and participated in Post Graduate Studies with institutional attachments in Urban Policy and Planning and Women Studies under Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at Rutgers University. She also is affiliated to the Center for Women's Global Leadership, the Center for American Women in Politics and pursued a three-month attachment at the World Bank. She is the recipient of a Pearson Fellowship Award.

Prior to the appointment to the United States Ambassador Mahama served as a Member of Parliament and Minister for Local Government and Rural Development from 2017-2021. Her passion for gender equality and development & growth of children has been evident throughout her career. She contributed to the passage of the Domestic Violence and the Human Trafficking Act, as well as the ratification of related conventions at the level of the African Union and the United Nations. She was also influential in the changes in Ghana's National Health Insurance law to improve maternal health and more.

**Bob Cousy**

***Honorary Degree/Community Service Medallion***

Bob Cousy is a retired NBA point guard who has dedicated the latter half of his life to community service with a particular focus on helping youth from under-privileged backgrounds access educational and professional opportunities. He has established academic scholarships and supported local non-profits. In 1963, he founded the Worcester chapter of Big Brothers, Big Sisters and has given generously to that organization in both service and funding over the years.

Cousy has also been an advocate for civil rights and labor rights, advocating for his African American teammates on the Boston Celtics when they faced harassment and discrimination and forming the first professional sports union when he founded the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA, now NBA). In "The Last Pass," co-authored with Gary Pomerantz, Cousy wrote of his personal and professional relationship with Bill Russell and publicly apologized for not doing more to support Russell and his African American colleagues when they faced civil rights violations.

Cousy's career began in high school where he took up basketball at the age of 13. While his success was not immediate, he began to develop his skills and gained experience. Once he moved to the next level, he became an NCAA Champion in 1947 and was a first team All-American in 1950. His play on the court led to his jersey number of 17 being retired. Cousy then became the number 3 overall pick in the 1950 NBA Draft. He spent the majority of his playing



career with the Boston Celtics where he became a 6-time NBA Champion, and a 13 time All-Star, all consecutively from 1951-1963. He was voted All-Star Game MVP twice and is part of the NBA's 25th, 35th, and 50th Anniversary All-Time Team. His 16,960 career points, 6,955 assists, and 4,785 rebounds also earned him a spot in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

### **Dr. Kristen Lee**

#### ***Commencement Speaker***

Dr. Kristen Lee, Ed.D., LICSW, known as "Dr. Kris", is an internationally recognized, award-winning behavioral science clinician, researcher educator, speaker, comedian, and activist from Boston, Massachusetts. As the Lead Faculty for Behavioral Science and Faculty-in-Residence at Northeastern University, Dr. Kris's research and teaching interests include individual and organizational well-being and resilience, particularly for marginalized and underserved populations. Dr. Kris works with organizations and leaders around the world on how to use the science of behavioral change and human potential to build healthy mental health cultures that help prevent burnout and promote organizational and human sustainability. She is the author of "RESET: Make the Most of Your Stress," Winner of the Next Generation Indie Book Awards Motivational Book of 2015, best-selling "Mentalligence: A New Psychology of Thinking-Learn What it Takes to be More Agile, Mindful and Connected in Today's World," and "Worth the Risk: How to Microdose Bravery to Grow Resilience, Connect More, and Offer Yourself to the World." Dr. Kris is the host of "Crackin' Up: Where Therapy Meets Comedy." She is a regular contributor for Psychology Today and Thrive Global. Dr. Kris's work has been featured on NPR, Ted, Forbes, Fast Company, and CBS radio. Her TedX talk, The Risk You Must Take, has over 424 K views.

Dr. Kris's signature ability to engage with a diverse range of audiences has led her to be invited to speak nationally and internationally to students, educators, health and mental health professionals, business leaders, and general audiences. Some of the venues she speaks at include Harvard University, Harvard Medical School, Nationwide, TEDx, Snap Chat, Virgin Pulse, and Johnson and Johnson.

Dr. Kris is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker known for her advocacy in promoting increased mental health integration in social policies and institutions to facilitate access and improved health outcomes in the U.S. and across the globe. She has served as a U.S. federal grant reviewer for the Departments of Minority Affairs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, and Health and Human Services. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the American Psychological Association. She holds a BS from Worcester State University, MSW from Boston University, and an Ed.D. from Northeastern University.

### **Kristine Lilly**

#### ***Commencement Speaker***

Member of the 1999 women's soccer team (along with Mia Hamm, Brandi Chasten, Julie Foudy, etc.).

Midfielder for the U.S. WNT for over 23 years.

All time leader in minutes played, 354 played games, 130 scored goals, and 105 assists.

Played in five FIFA Women's World Cups, three Olympic Games.

Two-time FIFA World Cup Champion.  
Two-time Olympic Gold Medalist, One Silver.  
Played and Coached the Professional Women's Soccer team, the Boston Breakers.  
Active on the corporate speaking circuit and native to New England.

### **Mary Jo Lorei**

#### ***Commencement Speaker***

Self-mastery coach, certified leadership and emotional intelligence trainer  
Mary Jo leads coaching and training workshops throughout the country. Mary Jo was also a coach for the Torch Foundation, which I interned for last year. She was a huge inspiration to me during this time. Mary Jo is captivating, smart, and enthusiastic, and I think she would be a very positive and inspiring commencement speaker.

"MARY JO LOREI is a former hairstylist turned accomplished facilitator, master coach and Self-Mastery Mentor of all those who seek their next level. She has over 20 years of experience working with individuals and over a decade of facilitating dynamic group encounters that provide tools and self-awareness to generate success. Mary Jo uses her intuition and deep connection with the human spirit to support others in developing their inner compass and creating energetic successful lives.

Mary Jo has completed multiple intensive facilitator & coaching programs, has studied with multiple spiritual masters and has pursued philosophy and anthropology courses. All of this (and more) helps her unlock understanding of the workings of human beings. She puts out a weekly Instagram inspiration called Tuesday Truth Seeds, works with private clients on success in all areas, facilitates workshops for companies as well as produces her own, and is always creating her next training. She uses her gifts and continual development of her skills to forward all whom she encounters. She is a compassionate mirror, a stealth truth seeker, and is devoted to living vibrantly."

### **Megan Marshall**

#### ***Commencement Speaker***

Megan Marshall is a pioneering historian and biographer whose career has been defined by her attention to the untold, or under-told, stories of American women's lives from the 19th and 20th centuries. She is the author of three award-winning biographies. Her first, *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism*, focused on three sisters born to the Peabody family of Salem, and their substantial contributions to the fields of art and literature, public education, and suffrage. It won the Francis Parkman Prize, the Mark Lynton History Prize, and the Massachusetts Book Award in Nonfiction. Her second book, *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*, won the Pulitzer Prize in Biography in 2014, and it presented Fuller, a path-breaking feminist journalist, writer, and reformer, at the fulcrum of American Transcendentalism. Her third book, *Elizabeth Bishop: A Miracle for Breakfast*, situated the life of Worcester native Elizabeth Bishop in the context of Bishop's evolving life across three countries and in her distinguished career as a poet. It also drew from Marshall's experience of having Bishop as a professor of poetry writing at Harvard when Marshall was an undergraduate. A first-generation college graduate, Marshall is currently the Charles Wesley Emerson College



Professor at Emerson College where she teaches in the graduate writing program. Her work appears in the New Yorker, the Atlantic Monthly, and the London Review of Books, and she provided a keystone essay for *Beyond the Frame, Celebrating a Partnership in Public Education and the Arts*, a collection of essays published by Worcester State University and the Worcester Art Museum in 2022. A strong advocate for the lives and rights of women, Marshall is a legendarily generous teacher and mentor to students and colleagues and a recent past president of the Society of American Historians. As a commencement speaker, she might speak to the cultural necessity of accurate historical narratives and to the evolution of women's rights and choices in this country.

### **Jesse Williams**

#### ***Commencement Speaker***

Jesse Williams is a 41-year-old American actor, director, producer, and activist. The actor and activist speaks out about racial issues, social justice, and cultural appropriation. Even though he is one of the biggest stars on *Grey's Anatomy* (he plays Dr. Jackson Avery), Williams tends to stay out of the spotlight and keep his personal life private – except when it comes to social justice. He has long been an active member of the Black Lives Matter movement. Williams is the youngest member of the board of directors at The Advancement Project, a civil rights think tank and advocacy group. He won a Humanitarian Award in 2016, which is given to a celebrity philanthropist who donates their time and money to a charitable cause, delivering a speech highlighting racial injustice, police brutality. Jesse Williams is a keynote speaker and industry expert who speaks on a wide range of topics including Diversity, Black Heritage and College.

### **Ann Ash Zelesky**

#### ***Honorary Degree/Community Service Medallion***

Ann has been a trailblazer and advocate for women's athletics throughout her lifetime as an athlete, coach and administrator. Her accolades can be found on all levels and include winning Championships, being inducted in numerous Hall of Fames\*, being recognized by the NCAA for her outstanding contributions and she continues, even after retirement, to be sought out for professional advice and as a resource. She humbly recognizes the accomplishments are not hers alone and are the result of teamwork, mentorship, opportunities provided and hard work! It would be most appropriate to select an Honorary Degree recipient as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Title IX to a person who has lived through and paved the way for so many women athletes. Ann has been an influencer and advocate for the growth of women's sports at all levels and her contributions have led to excellence in athletics and affected positive change.

You will not come across anyone in the community who doesn't have a nice word or memory about Ann because she is so well respected and handles herself in a professional manner no matter what the circumstance. She brings positive energy and enthusiasm and young and old are drawn to her because she values the worth and dignity of all people. A special quality that epitomizes her high integrity and character. She is a cancer survivor and never forgets the helping hands that guided her through her recovery and continues to give back to organizations and charities in hopes of helping others through some of the same challenges.

Ann has continued to be an ambassador for Worcester State University and more importantly public higher education. She is proud of her Worcester State education and understands the value of gaining a degree and pursuing worthwhile career paths. She has been a mentor to many students over the years and has been a resource and utilized her athletic and higher education networks to open doors and make connections for students around the Worcester area and nationwide. She is visible and available and looks for opportunities to serve for the better good and empowers others to use their gifts.

## **Pool for Commencement Speakers and Award Recipients**

**Updated 11/2022**

*If a person was chosen for what they were nominated for (award or CS) they do not appear on this list.*

### ***Chimananda Ngozi Adichie, CS, HD***

is a Nigerian novelist, nonfiction writer and short story writer. She has been called “the most prominent” of a “procession of critically acclaimed young Anglophone authors that is succeeding in attracting a new generation of readers to African literature.” Adichie spoke on “the Danger of a Single Story” for TED in 2009. In 2012, she delivered the “Connecting Cultures” Commonwealth Lecture in London. Adichie also spoke on being a feminist for TEDxEuston in December 2012, with her speech entitled, “we should all be feminists”. This speech was sampled for the 2013 song “\*\*\*Flawless” by Beyonce. She was awarded the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction and a MacArthur Award Fellowship in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

### **David Angel, HD**

The WSU President’s Office nominated Dr. David Angel for an honorary degree in recognition of his long and successful tenure as a faculty member, Provost, and President at Clark University. The following information was put forth in support of his nomination. Dr. Angel earned his bachelor’s degree from Cambridge University and his doctorate from UCLA in 1989. He joined the Clark faculty in September 1987 and holds an academic appointment as professor of geography, specializing in economic geography. From 1997 to 2002, Dr. Angel served as dean of graduate studies and research and was provost from 2003 to 2010, overseeing all of Clark’s undergraduate and graduate academic programs. He was selected by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees to assume the presidency of Clark in July 2010.

Dr. Angel’s research focused on issues of technological and industrial change and the environment. He has conducted work for the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Asian Development Bank, the John D., and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the U.S. National Science Foundation, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

Dr. Angel is the recipient of numerous major grants from the MacArthur Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. He also has received awards, including an Abe Fellowship from the Center for Global Partnership in conjunction with the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies. He has consulted widely for public and private organizations around the world, has published a number of books and is active on issues of university accreditation.



***Wendy and Rich Ardizzonne, HD***

The Joy of Music Program recently celebrated their 25th anniversary of providing music lessons, concerts and outreach work for the community of Worcester, and this couple, Director/founder and Associate Director (respectively) have worked tirelessly to build their non-profit school and spread the gospel of music with an energy and devotion that has changed the lives of multitudes of young and old alike.

**Joseph Bafaro, Sr., CSA**

At a time when it seems as if everyone is focused on self-promotion and rewards, Joseph J. Bafaro is a welcome reminder that there are people out there who are motivated to do the right thing...because it is the right thing to do.

For over five decades while building his plumbing business, Joe Bafaro has been committed to making our community a better place. Using the tried and true principles of integrity, honesty and respect to guide him, he has positively impacted Worcester County communities in his quiet manner. The list of Worcester- area organizations and institutions that have benefitted from his philanthropy would be too long to list. However, they include public and private schools, colleges and universities, and organizations that are connected with the arts, social services, children's sports, hospitals, health awareness, and those with religious affiliations. Yet when you 'google' his name...it doesn't appear. Why? Because he does not seek well-deserved accolades.

To say Joe's accomplishments "go well beyond his formal duties" is an understatement. There is no question that Joe Bafaro is an accomplished entrepreneur and businessman who was able to take his vision and transform it from a one-man shop into a family-owned and operated, full-service mechanical contracting firm that is recognized throughout Massachusetts and beyond for their exceptional service. But more importantly, he exemplifies someone who is committed to Worcester State University's mission to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for lives of professional accomplishment, engaged citizenship, and intellectual

***Ishmael Beah, CS***

Author of well-known book, *A Long Way Gone; Memoirs of Boy Soldier*.

The book describes his journey in Sierra Leone throughout the war due to the blood diamond controversy. His childhood was taken away because of a completely unjust war and he was forced into combat.

***Kevin Campbell, CS***

a WSU Alumnus and a 2010 recipient of a Worcester State College Honorary Doctoral Degree, is the current commander of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. His military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Nike-Hercules Officer Course, Ranger and Airborne Schools, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Naval War College. General Campbell's decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait

Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait) Ranger Tab, and Parachutist Badge.

***Dr. Gail Carberry, HD***

Recently retired from the Presidency of Quinsigamond Community College and holds a Certificate in Small Business Management from Springfield Technical Community College, a B.S. from Worcester State University and a Master's and Doctorate degrees from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, specializing in organizational development, strategic planning and staff development. She currently serves on numerous local, State and national Boards including the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, Latino Education Institute, Bay Path Regional/Vocational High School Foundation, National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, Worcester Educational Collaborative, Boys & Girls Club of Worcester, Central Mass Workforce Investment Board, Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Worcester Business Development Corporation and the Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives. She co-chairs the Mayor's Commission for Hispanic Education Excellence and chairs the Early Education Matters Task Force.

***Steve Carrell, CS***

Comedian and actor from Concord, MA. Starred in movies, "Dan in Real Life" and "Evan Almighty." His television hit is "The Office."

***Avram Noam Chomsky, CS***

is an American linguist, philosopher, cognitive scientist, historian, social critic, and political activist. Sometimes described as "the father of modern linguistics," Chomsky is also a major figure in analytic philosophy and one of the founders of the field of cognitive science. Considered the founder of modern linguistics, Noam Chomsky is one of the most cited scholars in modern history. Among his groundbreaking books are "Syntactic Structures", "Language and Mind," "Aspects of the Theory of Syntax," and "The Minimalist Program," each of which has made distinct contributions to the development of the field. He has received numerous awards, including the Kyoto Prize in Basic Sciences, the Helmholtz Medal and the Ben Franklin Medal in Computer and Cognitive Science.

**Anwardul Karim Chowdhury, HD**

The WSU President's Office nominated retired Ambassador Chowdhury for an honorary degree. He is described as a highly regarded United Nations official. Mr. Chowdhury's service included time as the Bangladesh permanent representative to the U.N. (he also served as Ambassador for his country to 4 countries in Latin America). He was President of the U.N. Security Council and Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Mr. Chowdhury is the recipient of the U Thant Peace Award and UNESCO Gandhi Gold Medal for Culture of Peace. He is an Honorary Patron of the Committee on Teaching About the UN (CTAUN), New York. In March 2003, Soka University of Japan conferred on Chowdhury an

honorary Doctorate for his work on women's issues, child rights and culture of peace as well as for the strengthening of the United Nations.

Perhaps his best known accomplishment while at the U.N. was securing the adoption of the groundbreaking U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 on the role of women in peace and security.

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>

***Martha Coakley, CS, HD***

a former Attorney General of Massachusetts.

Prior to serving as Attorney General, she was District Attorney of Middlesex County from 1999 to 2007. Coakley was the Democratic nominee in the 2010 special election to fill the United States Senate seat long held by Ted Kennedy. She won reelection as the Attorney General in the 2010 general election. Coakley was the Democratic nominee for Governor in 2014.

***Mary DeFeudis, CS , HD***

was born in Worcester and lived in Worcester for most her life. She serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the University of Massachusetts Memorial Foundation and serves on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross of Central Massachusetts and the Board of Directors for Becker College. A Founding Member of the Hanover Theatre, she also serves on their Board of Directors. She was named the 2010 Isaiah Thomas Award recipient in recognition of the many and varied outstanding contributions she has made to the Central Massachusetts community. She funded the Mary C. DeFeudis Training Center for the Red Cross, located in Leominster, which offers training programs such as CPR, babysitting certifications and nurse assistant training.

***Daniel Garvey, CS***

Earned a BA from WSU majoring in Sociology. Twelfth President of Prescott College. He was a faculty member at the University of New Hampshire and had a 25-year career as an administrator and educator focused on education reform and improvement.

***Anand Giridharadas, CS, HD***

is an author and columnist, writing about a world in transition as seen through the lens of culture. He writes the "Currents" column for The New York Times and its global edition, the International Herald Tribune, and also writes for The New York Times Magazine. His "Admit One" column, which is dedicated to the New York City arts audience, appears regularly in the Weekend Arts section of The New York Times. He is the author of *India Calling: An Intimate Portrait of a Nation's Remaking*, about returning to the India his parents left. Mr. Giridharadas visited Worcester State in February 2015 as a keynote speaker. He inspired students, faculty, and administrators alike. He was described by one faculty member as an "articulate, engaging intellectual on the rise."



***Ronald Michael Green, CS***

Ronald Michael Green was Professor of Religion and the Eunice and Julian Cohen Professor for the Study of Ethics and Human Values at Dartmouth College. He is a member of the Department of Religion and the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine, and he served from 1992-2011 as Director of Dartmouth's Institute for the Study of Applied and Professional Ethics. A summa cum laude graduate of Brown University, he received his Ph.D. in religious ethics from Harvard University in 1972. In 1996 and 1997, Professor Green was the founding director of the Office of Genome Ethics at the National Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Professor Green's research interests are in genetic ethics, biomedical ethics, and ethics in organizations. Health. Professor Green's research interests are in genetic ethics, biomedical ethics, and ethics in organizations. He is the author of nine books, editor of four, and author of more than 170 articles in theoretical and applied ethics. His three most recent books are *Babies by Design: The Ethics of Genetic Choice* (Yale University Press in 2007), *Kant and Kierkegaard on Time and Eternity* (Mercer University Press, 2011), and *Suffering and Bioethics* (co-edited with Nathan Palpant, Oxford University Press 2014).

***Lani Guinier, CS and HD***

Bennett Boskey Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.

Research interests include access to higher education, critical perspectives on race, class, and gender, law and social change, responsibilities of public lawyers, etc. The focus of her work is in keeping with WSU's interest in broadening the diversity perspectives of our students. One of her areas of expertise is Access to Higher Education. Another area of expertise is voting Rights and Democratic Theory. Inspirational speaker.

***Donald Hall, CS and HD***

Poet Laureate for the Library of Congress. Besides numerous awards for his poetry, including nomination for the Pulitzer, he has received several fellowships. He is an engaging speaker, a highly honored artist and visited WSU in the 70s.

***Thomas W Halloran, CS***

President of Voya Financial Advisors, Inc. (VFA), a registered broker-dealer business. The Voya broker-dealer, offers retail financial products, services and support to clients through a network of over 2,200 affiliated representatives across the country. An industry veteran, he has over 28 years of experience with financial advisors in various marketing, product and sales leadership roles. Received a B.S. in business administration from Worcester State University in 1988 and an M.B.A. from Boston University in 2000. Tom was formerly a member of the Worcester State Foundation Board from 2000-2007.

***Maura T. Healey, CS***

is an American attorney, a member of the Democratic Party and the Attorney General of Massachusetts. Born in New Hampshire, Healey graduated from Harvard College in 1992. She then spent two years playing professional basketball in Austria before

returning to the United States and receiving a Juris Doctor degree from the Northeastern University School of Law, in 1998. After clerking for federal judge A. David Mazzone, she worked in private practice for seven years, also serving as a special assistant district attorney in Middlesex County. Hired by Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley in 2007, Healey served as Chief of the Civil Rights Division, where she spearheaded the state's challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act. She was then appointed Chief of the Public Protection & Advocacy Bureau and then Chief of the Business and Labor Bureau before resigning in 2013 to run for attorney general in the 2014 election as Coakley ran for Governor. She defeated former State Senator Warren Tolman in the Democratic primary and then defeated Republican attorney John Miller in the general election, thus becoming the first openly gay state attorney general elected in America

### ***Homer Hickman, CS***

American author, Vietnam Veteran and former NASA engineer. His most famous book, *Rocket Boys*, is about his growing up in Coalwood, WV. The popular film, *October Sky* was based on the book and his life.

### ***Roald Hoffmann, CS***

was born in 1937 in Zloczow, Poland. Having survived the war, he came to the U. S. in 1949, and studied chemistry at Columbia and Harvard Universities (Ph.D. 1962). Since 1965 he is at Cornell University, now as the Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters Emeritus. He has received many of the honors of his profession, including the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (shared with Kenichi Fukui). Notable at the same time is his reaching out to the general public; he participated, for example, in the production of a television course in introductory chemistry titled "The World of Chemistry," shown widely since 1990. And, as a writer, Hoffmann has carved out a land between science, poetry, and philosophy, through many essays and three books, "Chemistry Imagined" with artist Vivian Torrence, "The Same and Not the Same and Old Wine" (translated into six languages), "New Flasks: Reflections on Science and Jewish Tradition," with Shira Leibowitz Schmidt. Unadvertised, a monthly cabaret Roald runs at the Cornelia Street Cafe in Greenwich Village, "Entertaining Science," has become the hot cheap ticket in NYC.

### **David Henry Hwang, CS, HD**

- Parent of a member of WSU Class of 2020.
- Supporter of multiple WSU initiatives & events (with no expectations for notice or fan-fare)
- Recent work *SOFT POWER* asks: "Why do we love democracy?" "Should we?"

**David Henry Hwang**, is an American playwright, screenwriter, and librettist whose work, by his own account, concerns the fluidity of identity. He is probably best known for his Tony Award-winning play *M. Butterfly* (1988), based on the true story of a French diplomat who had a long affair with a singer in the Beijing opera. The woman he loved later proved to be not only a man but also a spy for the Chinese government.

Hwang's parents were both Chinese-born, though his mother was reared in the Philippines. They immigrated separately to the United States, where they met, married, and raised their family. David Henry, the only son and the oldest of three siblings attended Stanford University (B.A., 1979), where his first play, *FOB* (an acronym for "fresh off the boat"), was first produced in 1979 (published 1983). The work, which examines the immigrant experience from an Asian American perspective, won an Obie Award in 1980–81 for best new American play. Between graduating from college and winning the Obie, Hwang had enrolled in the Yale School of Drama to gain a better sense of theatre history.

During his year in that program, he penned two short plays—*The Dance and the Railroad* (produced 1981), about two Chinese immigrant railroad workers and their expectations, and *The House of Sleeping Beauties* (produced 1983), adapted from a short story by Japanese writer Kawabata Yasunari—first performed in an omnibus production with *The Sound of a Voice* as *Sound and Beauty*. Hwang later adapted *The Sound of a Voice* into a libretto for an opera collaboration (2003) with American composer Philip Glass.

In addition to further collaborations with Glass, Hwang worked with a number of composers over the years, including Chinese-born Bright Sheng on *The Silver River* (produced 1997), a one-act opera based on an ancient Chinese folktale; Argentine Osvaldo Golijov on *Ainadamar* (2003, revised 2005; "Fountain of Tears"), an opera inspired by Spanish writer Federico García Lorca; and Korean-born Unsuk Chin on the opera *Alice in Wonderland* (2007; based on Lewis Carroll's *Alice* books).

In 1985 Hwang co-wrote the screenplay for *Blind Alleys*, a made-for-television movie. He also penned *Rich Relations* (1986), his first play without an Asian or Asian American element. Although that play was a critical failure, the playwright found its reception freeing in that it drove him to embrace experimentation over positive critical response. His next drama, *M. Butterfly* (1988; film 1993), was a wild success, and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. In 1988 Hwang also wrote the libretto for Glass's "science-fiction music drama" *1000 Airplanes on the Roof* (1989). The plays *Bondage* (1992), a short work about stereotypes that is set in a sadomasochism parlour, and *Face Value* (1993), a comedy that had only eight performances and never officially opened, followed. Hwang's next play, *Golden Child* (produced 1996, revised 1998), had a relatively short run but ultimately was nominated for a Tony Award. Based on the stories of Hwang's maternal grandmother, it examines the tensions between tradition and change in Chinese society.

Hwang's next projects involved music in some way. He cowrote the book for *Aida* (2000), which featured music by British rocker Sir Elton John and lyrics by British lyricist Sir Tim Rice and was based loosely on the Verdi opera of the same name; wrote a new book for the revival of the musical *Flower Drum Song* (2002); and wrote the book for an original musical-comedy version of *Tarzan* (2006). His stage comedy *Yellow Face* was first performed in 2007. It is both a reflection on Hwang's activism regarding the use of non-Asian actors in Asian roles (which he compared to blackface minstrelsy) and an examination of the role of "face" (a Chinese concept



embodying dignity, reputation, and respect) in American society. In 2011 Chinglish appeared on Broadway. It was written in English and Mandarin (with supertitles) and examined the subject of cultural and linguistic misunderstandings.

***John Krasinski, CS***

A 2001 graduate from Brown University. A native of Brighton, MA. A main character in the TV series, “The Office.”

***Dennis Leary, CS or CSA***

Native son – started the Leary Firefighters Foundation to support the City of Worcester Fire Department (as well as others) with money and equipment. Graduate of Emerson College and taught at the college for five years. Has had several articles in magazine and worked at stand-up comedy. He has starred in several movies and is active in raising funds for various causes.

***Laura Ling, CS***

Laura Ling is an American journalist and writer. She worked for Current TV as a correspondent and vice president of its Vanguard Journalist Unit, which produced the Vanguard TV series. She was the host and reporter of E! Investigates, a documentary series on the E! Network. In November 2014, Ling joined Discovery Digital Networks as its Director of Development. Laura Ling is the sister of Lisa Ling, who is a special correspondent for The Oprah Winfrey Show, National Geographic Explorer, and CNN. Laura Ling, and fellow journalist Euna Lee were detained in North Korea after they illegally crossed into North Korea from the People’s Republic of China without a visa. They were tried and convicted, then subsequently pardoned after former U.S. President Bill Clinton flew to North Korea to meet with Kim Jong-il.

***Jan Christian Lundberg, HD***

For more than 28 years, Jan has been an advocate for the adoption of a sustainable lifestyle. His earlier background as an oil industry analyst led him to an appreciation of the dangers of peak oil and the overuse of fossil fuels. Jan has also been a tireless opponent of the “plastic plague,” and has attempted to heighten public awareness of the dangers posed to the ecosystem by overuse of plastics. Jan was an early proponent of alternative energy systems and has pioneered the Pedal Power Produce, the Alliance for a Paving Moratorium, and the Sail Transport Network. Jan also founded Culture Change, which maintains a website where articles and essays of interest are freely available to those concerned with the future of the ecosystem. He has published numerous articles and has been a featured speaker at conferences and has been interviewed by all forms of the media. Requested additional information.

***Dr. Debra Maddox ’82, CSA***

Alumna with a long record of community service, academic accomplishments, and is President of Multicultural Wellness Center. She is a licensed mental health counselor in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is also a licensed marriage and family therapist, a

licensed rehabilitation counselor, a certified school psychologist and a nationally certified rehabilitation counselor. She received a B.A. in Psychology from WSU, a M.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling from Assumption College and a Psychology Doctorate from Antioch New England Graduate School. Dr. Maddox has been employed in a wide range of mental health and human services settings. She has worked in social, judicial, education and mental health clinical settings. She worked for Department of Children and Families, conducting investigations of abuse and neglect, with an emphasis on children who were sexually abused. Within the judicial system, she worked as a probation officer and also worked as an independent court investigator for the Massachusetts Trial Court, Juvenile Division. Dr. Maddox has taught undergraduate and graduate level courses and supervised the clinical work of graduate students as a part-time faculty member at QCC and Assumption. She has clinical interest in race, and culture and the impact of culture on adjustment and acculturation.

***Devin McCourty, CSA***

***James McGovern, HD, CS***

Congressman for the Third Congressional District representing people from Central and Southeastern Massachusetts. He has been a passionate advocate for human rights around the world and is a strong support of education at all levels.

**Charles F. Monahan, Jr., HD**

The WSU President's Office nominated Dr. Monahan, the recently retired President of MCPHS, for CS. The following information was provided: "Mr. Monahan, a 1962 graduate of the University's pharmacy program, was instrumental in the transformation of MCPHS from a regional pharmacy college into a nationally ranked, world-class university offering more than 100 healthcare degree and certificate programs. Under his leadership, the University grew from a population of 1,000 students in Boston, almost all of whom were studying pharmacy, to a home for more than 7,000 students across three campuses."

While the committee did not approve Dr. Monahan as a commencement speaker, it did approve him for an honorary degree.

***Dominique Morisseau CS***

is a dynamic, successful playwright and poet, and a fierce champion of social and racial justice. She is a 2018 MacArthur Fellow ("Genius Grant").

Dominique received a B.F.A. (2000) from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She is currently a Residency Five Playwright at the Signature Theatre. She has had work commissioned by the Steppenwolf Theatre, the Hip Hop Theater Festival, the South Coast Repertory, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; and her work has been staged at the Public Theater, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and the Atlantic Theater Company.

***Robert Moylan, CSA***

Should be recognized for his leadership as the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works and Parks for the City of Worcester. He is considered, by his peers, to be one of the top 10 public works leaders in the nation. Although his accomplishments are numerous, it should be noted that he instituted the recycling program long before “sustainability” was popular. Recently, WSU benefitted from how quickly, and efficiently, the recent crisis involving the water main break was resolved. He is an excellent example of a leader who maintains high standards for his Department which benefits all residents of Worcester.

***Conan O'Brien, CS***

Conan O'Brien was born in Brookline, MA and is most famous for his late night show. He has won 2 primetime Emmy awards. Former writer for “Saturday Night Live” and worked on the “The Simpsons.” Graduate of Harvard.

***Congressman Richard E. Neal, HD***

Congressman Richard E. Neal represents the First Congregational District of Massachusetts in the United States Congress. Richard Neal was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on February 14, 1949 and was raised and educated in the City of Springfield. He is a 1972 graduate of American International College, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and was a member of the National Honor Society. He received his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Barney School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Hartford in 1976.

***Parker Palmer, CS***

Writer, teacher and activist known for his work in education, spirituality and social change in institutions including schools, community organizations, primary, secondary and higher education, and business and corporations. His writing earned him numerous awards and citations. His work, *The Courage to Teach*, has provided a touchstone of renewal for thousands of educators at all levels. He is a native of Chicago and a graduate of Carleton College and University of California at Berkeley.

***Steven Michael Palermo, CS, CSA***

is a former umpire in Major League Baseball who worked in the American League from 1977 to 1991. Although he attended WSU, he did not finish, as he left to attend the Umpire Development Program. His career includes the 1982 World Series, three American League Championship Series, the 1981 American League Division Series and the 1986 All-Star Game. In 1991, *The Sporting News*, ranked him “Number 1” among American League umpires for overall performance. In 1978 he was serving as the third base umpire that signaled “fair Ball” for the game-winning home run of the Yankees-Red Sox Eastern Division final. His field career ended when he was shot in the back following his intervention in an altercation outside a Dallas Italian restaurant. He wore uniform number 14 when the American League began using uniform numbers for its umpires in 1980, and the number was never reassigned to another AL umpire



until after the AL and NL umpire staffs were unified by MLB in 2000. In 1994, he won the Arthur Ashe Courage Award. In 2003, he began serving as the Honorary Chairman of Assurant Employee Benefits' Will Return Council. The Council annually presents the Shining Star of Perseverance Award to individuals who overcome disabilities. He currently serves as a major league supervisor of umpires and works as a motivational speaker.

### **Deval Patrick, CS**

The Honorable Deval Patrick was first elected Governor of Massachusetts in November of 2006. He came from Chicago at the age of 14 and attended Milton academy. He spent a postgraduate year working on a United Nations youth training project in the Darfur region of Sudan. He attended Harvard Law School in the fall of 1979 where he led the Legal Aid Bureau, the nations' oldest student-run legal services organizations. He served as a law clerk to a federal appellate judge before joining the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. He joined the Boston Law firm of Hill & Barlow and was named partner in 1990. In 1994, President Clinton appointed him Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, the nation's top civil rights post. He returned to private practice in 1997 with the Boston firm of Day, Berry & Howard. In 2001, he joined the Coca-Cola Company as Executive Vice President and General Counsel. He was later elected to the role of Corporate Executive Vice President and General Counsel. He was later elected to the role of Corporate Secretary and served as part of the company's senior leadership team as a member of the Executive Committee. Governor Patrick has been the speaker at several of our sister institutions.

### **Sasha Pfeiffer CS, CSA**

### **Steven Arthur Pinker, CS**

is a cognitive psychologist, linguist, and popular science author. He is Johnstone Family Professor in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University, and is known for his advocacy of evolutionary psychology and the computational theory of mind. Pinker's research on vision, language, and social relations has won prizes from the National Academy of Sciences, the Royal Institution of Great Britain, the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, the American Psychological Association, and the Association for Psychological Science. He has also received eight honorary doctorates, several teaching awards at MIT and Harvard, and numerous prizes for his books *The Language Instinct*, *How the Mind Works*, *The Blank Slate*, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, and *The Sense of Style*. He is Chair of the Usage Panel of the American Heritage Dictionary, and often writes for *The New York Times*, *Time*, and other publications. He has been named Humanist of the Year, *Foreign Policy's* "100 Global Thinkers," and *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World Today." Prof. Pinker is currently doing research on a diverse array of topics in psychology, including the role of common knowledge (where two or more people know that the others know what they know) in language and other social phenomena; historical and recent trends in violence and their explanation; the psycholinguistics of good writing; the nature of the critical period for acquiring language; the neurobiology and genetics of language; and the nature of regular and irregular phenomena in grammar.

***Amy Poehler, CS***

Born and raised in Massachusetts, she graduated from Burlington High School where her mother was a teacher. She went on to Boston College and discovered the art of improvisation. She was part of a group known as the Upright Citizens Brigade which were four special agents and was a Monty Python type of sketch comedy. They started their own theater in New York City and taught classes as well covering both improv and sketch writing. She went on to star in several shows including *Blades of Glory*, *On Broadway*, *Spring Break down* and *Shrek the Third*.

***James Polito, CS***

An alum of WSU has gone far with his Communication degree. He covered stories such as the disappearance of Molly Bish and September 11. He currently works at WTAG where he is known for his wit and humor encouraging people to voice their opinions.

***Alisan Porter, CS***

Born to Jewish parents in Worcester, Massachusetts, she is the great-granddaughter of prominent Worcester Rabbi Joseph Klein. Her grandmother ran the Charlotte Klein Dance Center and her father, Ric Porter, was co-founder, lead singer, and songwriter of the Worcester-based band Zonkaraz. She has been singing and performing since age three and at age five, she became the youngest *Star Search* participant ever to win the competition. She acted in several films as a child and became known for playing the title role in the 1991 movie *Curly Sue* opposite Jim Belushi. She has openly discussed her battles with alcoholism and drug addiction and has been sober since October of 2007. Alisan sang the National Anthem at the 2016 A Capitol Fourth special at the U.S. Capitol West Lawn and also sang the anthem prior to the nationally televised Sunday Night Football game in Oakland, California in November of 2016. On May 24, 2016 she was crowned the season 10 winner of *The Voice*.

***Matthew Quick, CS***

Acclaimed author of, *"Silver Lining Playbook"*: as well as two other books currently in print and soon to be released, *"Forgive me, Leonard Peacock."* Award winning writer known for writing stories with a powerful message. Work has been translated into more than twenty languages. Native of Holden, Massachusetts.

***JP Ricciardi, HD***

A graduate of WSU and former baseball coach with the 1983 NCAA Baseball Team. Former general manager of the Toronto Blue Jays.

**Francis J. Ricciardione, HD**

The WSU President's Office nominated Mr. Francis J. Ricciardone for CS. The following was found on the University's website: He is the current President of the American University in Cairo and began his term on July 1, 2016. He had served as a Foreign Service Officer from

1978-2014, including appointments as U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Turkey, and the Philippines, and Chargé d’Affaires and Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan. After graduating from Dartmouth College Summa Cum Laude in 1973, he received a Fulbright Scholarship and taught in American international schools in Trieste, Italy, and Tehran, Iran. From 2014-2016 he was Vice President of the Atlantic Council and Director of the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. He was a distinguished scholar at the US Institute of Peace in 2008-2009 for commencement speaker.

While the committee did not approve Mr. Ricciardone as a commencement speaker, it did approve him for an honorary degree.

**Gregg H. Rosen, CS, HD, CSA**

- WSU Class of 1986

As a proud alumnus and prominent business leader, Mr. Rosen is uniquely positioned to represent the values and mission of Worcester State while being relatable to the members of the graduating class of 2020.

Mr. Rosen is a Worcester native and coming from a middle-class family recognized the value of a Worcester State education. Majoring in business, Gregg built relationships with many of his teachers and aspired to learn from their positive influences. After graduating he focused his time and energy on becoming knowledgeable in the banking industry and built an impressive career growing and branding financial institutions. As president of NES Group, Gregg’s company is recognized as a leader in providing all aspects of bank design, architecture, and project management and he is quick to credit Worcester State with instilling the knowledge that helped bring him to this point in his career.

Since graduating in 1986 and marrying fellow Lancer Pamela Swartz ’87, Gregg has sought out ways to give back to his alma mater and “pay it forward”. In addition to currently serving on the Worcester State Foundation Board, he is a past president of the Foundation Board, has served on numerous University committees, serves as an alumni mentor to our students and has hosted many regional alumni events. The Rosens established the Gregg Rosen ’86 and Pamela Swartz Rosen ’87 Endowed Scholarship to help alleviate the financial burden students experience and make it easier for them to “find themselves” as Gregg and Pam did years ago.

It would be hard to find an individual who exhibits more Lancer Pride than Gregg Rosen. It is for this reason, coupled with his entrepreneurship, drive, and ability to translate his education into a successful career in the banking industry that makes him an exceptional candidate for this year’s commencement speaker.

**Navyn Salem, CS CSA**

is the founder of Edesia. Edesia is a unique non-profit organization that manufactures specialized ready-to-use foods (RUFs) that change lives. Each year millions of

“miracle packets” leave Edesia’s Rhode Island factory and are delivered into the hands of malnourished children all over the world by humanitarian aid workers working in the hardest-to-reach and most inhospitable places on the planet.

**Brian Skerry, Commencement Speaker, Honorary Degree**

- Alum of Worcester State University
- Spoke at WSU President Barry Maloney’s Inauguration
- Message would be relatable to WSU graduates

Brian Skerry is a photojournalist specializing in marine wildlife and underwater environments. Since 1998 he has been a contract photographer for National Geographic Magazine covering a wide

range of subjects and stories. In 2014 he was one of five photographers named as a National Geographic Photography Fellow. In 2015 he was named a Nikon Ambassador and in June 2017 he was awarded the title of Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year.

***Sharon Shipley '74, CSA***

Alumna with a career in industry and a record of charity work.

Worked for Unilever for most of her career in the military section. She was instrumental in developing programs to enhance the quality of life for military families through promotions that funded scholarships for military children through the Fisher House Foundation and collaborated with Unilever’s laundry team to build or refurbish 20 ball fields on military installations. She refers to WSU as the most amazing place and encouraged her two nieces to attend. She is an avid donor.

***Andrew Solomon, CS***

A writer on politics, culture and psychology who recently published the book, *Far From the Tree*, a study of the lives of parents whose children have differing abilities. He lives in New York and London. He has written for *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Artforum*, *Travel and Leisure*, and other publications on a range of subjects. His book, *The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression* won the 2001 National Book Award, and was a finalist for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize. He is a brilliant speaker and inspiring individual.

***Billy Starr, CS***

founded and leads the Pan-Mass Challenge, the most successful athletic fundraising event in the world. Since 1980, the PMC, a 190-mile bike-a-thon, has contributed \$414 million to cancer research. By 1984, the PMC had established itself as the largest grossing fundraising event for the Jimmy Fund, New England’s most popular charity. By 1990, the PMC had become the most successful cycling fundraiser in the world. Today, the PMC raises two to three times more money for charity than any other athletic event in the world.

The PMC is Dana-Farber’s single largest contributor. In 1993, the Jimmy Fund honored Starr and the PMC at Fenway Park by awarding him the Tom & Jean Yawkey Memorial Award for outstanding service. In 1997, the bridge connecting the Jimmy Fund Clinic to the new Smith



Research Labs and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute was named the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge Bridge to Progress. In 1998, Starr was the speaker at Babson College's graduate commencement and received an honorary degree for "entrepreneurial vision and leadership." In 2004, Starr was featured in a documentary about entrepreneurs entitled Lemonade Stories, along with corporate moguls Richard Branson, Russell Simmons and Arthur Blank. This same year, Dana-Farber awarded Starr the Sidney Farber Medical Research Award, a very prestigious honor given to those who have made an exceptional contribution to reduce the burden of cancer on society. In October 2006, the National Lung Cancer Alliance presented Starr with its Lifetime Achievement Award. The Friends of Dana-Farber honored Starr in 2010 for his more than 30 years of support and service to the Institute. Before starting the PMC, he was a reporter for newspapers in Massachusetts and Colorado, worked in public relations, and was the squash coach at Babson College. He received his BA from the University of Denver in 1973, a Masters in Education from Northeastern University in 1978, an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Babson College in 1998, and an honorary degree from Bay Path College in 2008.

### ***Albert Toney, CS, CSA***

Albert Toney III, an alumnus of WSU, is a civil rights activist who retired from the Worcester Massachusetts Police Department after being shot in the line of duty. He was born and raised in Worcester, as the son of a Massachusetts State Police Sergeant and an elementary school teacher. He joined the Worcester Massachusetts Police Department in 1987. In 1991, he was shot in the line of duty in an incident that killed his then life partner, Robert Domiano Jr. As a result of the shooting, Albert became the first openly gay police officer on the Worcester Police Department, and he publicly declared that he would focus his efforts on gay civil rights. Albert retired from the police force in 1995 as a result of his injuries from the shooting, but he continued on the path of educating people about the many myths and stereotypes people learn about those who are different than them, particularly the gay and lesbian community and communities of color.

### ***Neil deGrasse Tyson, CS***

Neil deGrasse Tyson is an American astrophysicist, author, and science communicator. Since 1996, he has been the Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the Rose Center for Earth and Space in New York City. The center is part of the American Museum of Natural History, where Tyson founded the Department of Astrophysics in 1997 and has been a research associate in the department since 2003. Tyson's professional research interests are broad, but include star formation, exploding stars, dwarf galaxies, and the structure of our Milky Way. In 2001, Tyson was appointed by President Bush to serve on a 12-member commission that studied the Future of the US Aerospace Industry. The final report was published in 2002 and contained recommendations (for Congress and for the major agencies of the government) that would promote a thriving future of transportation, space exploration, and national security. In 2004, Tyson was once again appointed by President Bush to serve on a 9-member commission on the Implementation of the United States Space Exploration Policy, dubbed the Moon, Mars, and Beyond commission. This group navigated a path by which the new space vision can become a successful part of the American agenda. And in 2006, the head of NASA appointed

Tyson to serve on its prestigious Advisory Council, which will help guide NASA through its perennial need to t its ambitious vision into its restricted budget. In addition to dozens of professional publications, Dr. Tyson has written, and continues to write for the public from magazine articles to approachable, "playful" books. He has appeared on numerous television and radio shows. He is the recipient of twenty honorary doctorates and the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest award given byNASA to a non-government citizen. His contributions to the public appreciation of the cosmos have been recognized by the International Astronomical Union in their official naming of asteroid 13123 Tyson. Recently Tyson served as Executive Editor and on camera Host & Narrator for Cosmos: A SpaceTime Odyssey, the 21st century continuation of Carl Sagan's landmark television series. The show appeared in 181 countries in 45 languages around the world on the National Geographic Channels. Cosmos, which is also available in DVD and BluRay , won four Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award, two Critics Choice awards, as well as a dozen other industry recognitions. Tyson is the head of the world-renowned Hayden Planetarium in New York City and the rst occupant of its Frederick P. Rose Directorship. He is also a research associate of the Department of Astrophysics at the American Museum of Natural History.

***Warren, Elizabeth, CS***

Elizabeth Warren is from Massachusetts and took office on January 3, 2013 as the Massachusetts US Senator. She has been assigned to three important committees: Health, Education, Labor – Pensions (HELP) and Banking and Aging. She was a former professor at Harvard Law School.

***Cornell West, CS***

One of America's most provocative public intellectuals. Has been a champion for racial justice since childhood. His writing, speaking and teaching weave together the traditions of the black Baptist Church. Class of 1943 Professor at Princeton University noted for his bestselling book, Race Matters, a searing analysis of racism in American Democracy.

***Oprah Winfrey, CS***

Creator of a multinational business. Known for her entrepreneurial skill and caring ear for those in need.

***Patricia Yancey '00, CSA***

Chapter President of local NAACP with a service record in the religious community. Active in the Faith in Worcester Day of Prayer (September 2016) with leaders from diverse communities of faith to include all cultures because that is what Worcester looks like. Married to Dr. George Yancey, first vice president of the local chapter of the NAACP the response was overwhelming.

**KEY TO POOL**

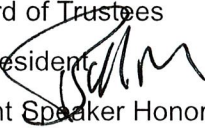
**CSA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

**CS COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**  
**HD HONORARY DEGREE**



# WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

President's Office  
Phone: 508-929-8020  
Fax: 508-929-8191  
Email: [bmaloney@worchester.edu](mailto:bmaloney@worchester.edu)

TO: Members, WSU Board of Trustees  
FROM: Barry M. Maloney, President   
RE: 2023 Commencement Speaker Honorary Degree  
DATE: January 18, 2023

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Having accepted the recommendation of the Senior Class Committee, I inform you of the choice of Dr. Kristen Lee to serve as our 2023 undergraduate Commencement speaker and seek your approval to award her an honorary degree. Dr. Lee's nomination has been vetted through the Speaker/Awards Committee and approved by the All University Committee.

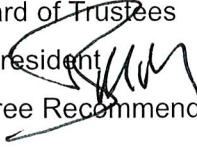
Dr. Kristen Lee, Ed.D., LICSW, known as "Dr. Kris", is an internationally recognized, award winning behavioral science clinician, researcher, educator, speaker, comedian, and activist from Boston, Massachusetts and a Worcester State University alumna. As the Lead Faculty for Behavioral Science and Faculty-in-Residence at Northeastern University, Dr. Kris's research and teaching interests include individual and organizational well-being and resilience, particularly for marginalized and underserved populations. Dr. Kris works with organizations and leaders around the world on how to use the science of behavioral change and human potential to build healthy mental health cultures that help prevent burnout and promote organizational and human sustainability. She is the author of "RESET: Make the Most of Your Stress," which won the Next Generation Indie Book Awards Motivational Book of 2015; of the best-selling "Mentalligence: A New Psychology of Thinking-Learn What it Takes to be More Agile, Mindful and Connected in Today's World"; and of "Worth the Risk: How to Microdose Bravery to Grow Resilience, Connect More, and Offer Yourself to the World." Dr. Kris is the host of "Crackin' Up: Where Therapy Meets Comedy." She is a regular contributor for Psychology Today and Thrive Global. Dr. Kris's work has been featured on NPR, TED, Forbes, Fast Company, and CBS radio. Her TedX talk, The Risk You Must Take, has over 424,000 views.

Dr. Kris's signature ability to engage with a diverse range of audiences has led her to be invited to speak nationally and internationally to students, educators, health and mental health professionals, business leaders, and general audiences. Those who have sponsored her talks include Harvard University, Harvard Medical School, Nationwide, Snap Chat, Virgin Pulse, and Johnson and Johnson.

Dr. Kris is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker known for her advocacy in promoting increased mental health integration in social policies and institutions to facilitate access and improved health outcomes in the U.S. and across the globe. She has served as a U.S. federal grant reviewer for the Departments of Minority Affairs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, and Health and Human Services. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the American Psychological Association. She holds a B.S. from Worcester State University, an MSW from Boston University, and an Ed.D. from Northeastern University.

I ask for your favorable action on this recommendation to grant Dr. Kristen Lee an honorary degree at the February 6, 2023, board meeting.



TO: Members, WSU Board of Trustees  
FROM: Barry M. Maloney, President   
RE: 2023 Honorary Degree Recommendations  
DATE: January 19, 2023

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In addition to an honorary degree for our 2023 Commencement Speaker, Dr. Kristen Lee, requested separately, I seek the Board's approval for the following honorary degree recipients for 2023:

**1. Bob Cousy, Honorary Degree**

Bob Cousy is a retired NBA point guard who has dedicated the latter half of his life to community service with a particular focus on helping youth from underprivileged backgrounds access educational and professional opportunities. He has established academic scholarships and supported local nonprofits. In 1963, he founded the Worcester chapter of Big Brothers, Big Sisters and has given generously to that organization in both service and funding over the years.

Cousy has also been an advocate for civil rights and labor rights, advocating for his African American teammates on the Boston Celtics when they faced harassment and discrimination, and he formed the first professional sports union when he founded the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA). In "The Last Pass," co-authored with Gary Pomerantz, Cousy wrote of his personal and professional relationship with Bill Russell and publicly apologized for not doing more to support Russell and his African-American colleagues when they faced civil rights violations.

Cousy's career began in high school where he took up basketball at the age of 13. While his success was not immediate, he began to develop his skills and gained experience. Once he moved to the next level, he became an NCAA Champion in 1947 and was a first team All American in 1950. His play on the court led to his jersey number of 17 being retired. Cousy then became the third overall pick in the 1950 NBA Draft. He spent the majority of his playing career with the Boston Celtics, where he became a six-time NBA Champion, and a 13-time All Star, all consecutively from 1951-1963. He was voted the All-Star Game's MVP twice and is part of the NBA's 25th, 35th, and 50th Anniversary All-Time Teams. His 16,960 career points, 6,955 assists, and 4,785 rebounds also earned him a spot in the Basketball Hall of Fame.



## **2. Ann Ash Zelesky, Honorary Degree**

Ann Ash Zelesky '73, has been a trailblazer and advocate for women's athletics throughout her life, pursuing sports as a youngster at a time when many girls were discouraged from doing so. She went on to compete collegiately and, in 1986, was inducted into the Worcester State University Hall of Fame in three sports. She has been an influencer and advocate for the growth of women's sports at all levels, and her contributions have led to excellence in collegiate athletics and affected positive change.

In this, the 50th year of Title IX, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in educational institutions receiving federal funds, it is appropriate to recognize Zelesky for the groundbreaking role she played both before and after its passage as well as the impact she has had on girls and women in education, as a coach at Worcester State, then as a coach and Athletic Director at St. Peter-Marian, then, in 1989, she began working at the College of the Holy Cross as the coordinator of women's athletics. From there she became a senior women's administrator, responsible for overseeing the operational activities of 14 varsity sports and serving as a Title IX administrator. She served 26 years as an athletics administrators at Holy Cross, retiring in 2015.

She has led teams that won championships, been inducted into numerous Hall of Fames, and was recognized by the NCAA for her outstanding contributions. Her positive energy and enthusiasm are often commented upon, and, perhaps because she values the worth and dignity of all people, many are drawn to her. Even after retirement, she continues to be sought out for professional advice and as a resource.

Zelesky is a cancer survivor and never forgets the helping hands that guided her through her recovery. She gives back to organizations and charities, helping others through some of the same challenges. She served, for example, as advisor for HC for a Cure, which raises funds for Pink Revolution and the UMass Memorial Comprehensive Breast Center, and played a role in Holy Cross's annual Benching for Breast Cancer fundraiser.

Zelesky has continued to be an ambassador for Worcester State University and, more importantly, public higher education. She has been a mentor to many students over the years and has been a resource and utilized her athletic and higher education networks to open doors and make connections for students around the Worcester area and nationwide.