

March 28, 2017

Dear Members of the Tufts Community:

At the Commencement ceremony to be held on Sunday, May 21, 2017, seven distinguished individuals will receive an honorary degree from Tufts: Commencement speaker Kenya Barris, award-winning television writer, creator and director, and feature film screenwriter; pioneering dental researcher and clinician Bruce Baum D71; award-winning scientist, author and educator Sean B. Carroll SK83; former U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet; philanthropist Joyce Cummings; former Executive Director of the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) Jean McGuire; and president of the Juilliard School Joseph Polisi F70.

*The Honorary Degree Committee of the Board of Trustees now invites all members of the university community to submit nominations for honorary degrees to be awarded in May 2018 and subsequent years.*

Each year, the university honors a number of distinguished individuals with honorary degrees recognizing their significant accomplishments. The conferral of honorary degrees has a long and distinguished tradition at Tufts University. The first honorary degree was awarded in 1858, one year after our first Commencement. Today, we confer honorary degrees to recognize extraordinary talents and contributions. Nominees should have a record of distinguished and sustained accomplishment. They may be honored for their contributions in the varied academic, scholarly, and professional fields represented at Tufts; business and industry; the visual, literary, musical, and performing arts; or public life. A significant contribution to the work of Tufts University itself may be an additional qualification.

The Honorary Degree Committee especially welcomes opportunities to recognize alumni of the university and those who have not yet received other recognition commensurate with their accomplishments. The Committee also seeks to reflect in its selection the diversity of the Tufts community.

To ensure timely consideration, nominations should be received by Friday, April 14, 2017. The nomination form with submission instructions and a list of previous honorary degree recipients is available at <http://trustees.tufts.edu/hondegree/degrees/>. You may address inquiries regarding honorary degrees to [trustees@tufts.edu](mailto:trustees@tufts.edu).

Our honorary degree recipients' presence on the Commencement platform provides inspiration and a model of accomplishment for our graduates and the entire community. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to nominate candidates for this high honor.

Sincerely,

Debra Knez  
Chair  
Honorary Degree Committee