



Office of
the Trustees

April 6, 2018

Dear Members of the Tufts Community:

At the Commencement ceremony to be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018, six distinguished individuals will receive an honorary degree from Tufts: Commencement speaker Ellen Kullman E78, retired CEO and chair of the board of DuPont; award-winning chef and humanitarian José Andrés; former U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter; former president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Risa Lavizzo-Mourey; musician and artistic director of the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance Arturo O’Farrill; and foreign policy strategist and former advisor to the U.S. State Department and National Security Council Farah Pandith F95.

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 2019 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 20, 2018**. 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.

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,

Betsy Busch
Chair
Honorary Degree Committee