

October 5, 2021

Dear Members of the Tufts Community:

At the Commencement ceremony held on Sunday, May 23, 2021, six distinguished individuals received an honorary degree from Tufts: lawyer, civil rights advocate, and author Bryan Stevenson who was the Commencement speaker, major general in the U.S. Army Maria Barrett, physician and academic William Bazeyo, senior director of the Genomics Platform at Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard Stacey Gabriel, food entrepreneur and philanthropist Hamdi Ulukaya, and Native American linguist scholar and poet Ofelia Zepeda.

*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 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 Monday, October 25, 2021. 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,

Betsy Busch  
Chair  
Honorary Degree Committee