



# COMMENCEMENT

*Spring 2019*

# Honorary Degrees

The University of Iowa, with approval of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, confers honorary degrees to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in such areas as research, scholarship, education, artistic creation, social activism, human rights, humanitarian outreach, or as recognized by the faculty as being consistent with the values of higher education.

Honorary degrees may be conferred at commencement ceremonies in the appropriate college or at University convocations. Honorary degrees are typically conferred only when the honoree is present. On rare occasions, an honorary degree may be conferred in absentia.

The first honorary degree was awarded in 1962; no honorary degrees were conferred from June 1, 1981 to 2007. Over 30 honorary degrees have been awarded, and two have been approved, but have not yet been conferred.

For more information on honorary degrees, or to see a list of award recipients, please visit [uiowa.edu/honorarydegrees](https://uiowa.edu/honorarydegrees).

## Mary Sue Coleman

### Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Dr. Mary Sue Coleman is one of the nation's great leaders in higher education. Currently, she is president of the American Association of Universities (AAU), the premier organization that monitors the academic performance level of the nation's top research universities. In that role, she is devoted to challenges including research funding, enhancing diversity, immigration policy, free speech, and access to higher education.

From 2002 to 2014, she served as president of the University of Michigan, which under her leadership continued to advance as one of the top universities in the world. An unshakable advocate for diversity and inclusion, Dr. Coleman took the lead in the Grutter vs. Bollinger Supreme Court case on diversity through Affirmative Action at the University of Michigan Law School, and won a landmark victory. In 2009, Time Magazine named her one of the 10 Best American University Presidents, for her emphasis on high-quality research and fundraising for public universities.

The University of Iowa community knows Dr. Coleman best as the university's 18th president. From 1995 to 2002, she energized the university, enhanced its academic standing among peers, and skillfully led it through a number of challenges—including bringing the campus together in the days and weeks following 9/11. During her tenure, she expanded the health sciences, championed women scholars and athletes, and enhanced the university's writing programs. She worked hard to make Iowa City the cultural capital of Iowa, contributing significantly to Iowa City ultimately becoming a UNESCO City of Literature shortly after her departure. She was instrumental to the success of the "Good. Better. Best. Iowa." capital campaign, helping to raise more than \$1 billion. She also generously provided significant personal support for students through the establishment of the Kenneth and Mary Sue Coleman UI Presidential Scholarship.

Dr. Coleman sits on the boards of trustees of the Kavli Foundation for advancing science and support for science, the Mayo Clinic Foundation, the Gates-Cambridge Scholars Program, the Society for Science and the Public, and the University of Denver. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science as well as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In those roles, she has led major studies on the consequences of lack of health insurance within the U.S. and erosion of state and federal support for the nation's public research universities.

The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Dr. Mary Sue Coleman for her contributions to higher education research and policy, her advocacy for students, diversity and inclusion, and for inspiring all universities to reach for excellence in academic achievement.