

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

# ALUMNAE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2017

PRESENTED TO

*Katherine Butler Jones '57*



**KATHERINE BUTLER JONES, CLASS OF 1957**, the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College is pleased to honor you with the Alumnae Achievement Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose accomplishments and service to society exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

Katherine, the commitment you have shown to your family and your community have been exemplary. After graduation you settled in Boston, where you taught in the public school system before becoming a full-time mother. In 1967 you received a master's degree in urban education at Simmons College, followed by a doctorate from Harvard in administration and school policy, all while raising eight children. An active volunteer for many organizations within your community, you cofounded the Roxbury Newton Freedom School—an after-school enrichment program serving two-hundred students—and founded the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunities Program—the second oldest voluntary inter-district school assignment program in the country dedicated to increasing diversity and reducing racial isolation. In 1978 you became the first African-American to be elected to the Newton School Committee. During this time, you also held positions at Simmons College Graduate School of Education as adjunct professor and at the Education Development Center, working to increase the number of students of color in science and technology.

In 1989 you discovered that abolitionist Minister Henry Highland Garnet certified your great-great-grandparent's marriage. Digging deeper, you found that your great-grandfather, Edward Weeks, brought slaves to Canada through an Underground Railroad station in the Adirondacks. You shared this research with multiple museum exhibits and journal articles, receiving the New England PEN Discovery Author Award in 1996 for your historical writing. In 2002 you coauthored *The Civil Rights Movement in Newton, 1960-1980*. You have expanded and reported on your findings, culminating in your recent memoir, *Deeper Roots: An American Odyssey*. You have given your heart, soul, and endless energy to improving young lives, fighting for education and equality, and making the world a better, fairer place for all, shedding light on an important piece of American history.

Katherine, for your accomplishments, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Alumnae Achievement Award on this, your sixtieth reunion.

MARCIA BRUMIT KROPP '67  
PRESIDENT  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

NANCY BELLOWS PEREZ '76  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE