

## **Bowdoin College's 2020 Honorary Degree Recipients**

For the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

ANN M. FUDGE, LHD

Ann M. Fudge is the former chairman and CEO of Young & Rubicam Brands, a global network of marketing communications companies. A native of Washington, DC, she graduated from Simmons College in 1973 with a BA in management. Fudge earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1977 and later joined General Mills in Minnesota and was promoted to marketing director in 1983. In 1986, she accepted a position with Kraft Foods, and in 1994 Kraft Foods appointed her as president of the Maxwell House coffee brand, making her the first African American woman to head a major corporate division. In 2001, one year after becoming president of Kraft's beverages, desserts, and Post division, Fudge retired from the company. After a two-year sabbatical, during which she deepened her involvement with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Fudge returned to the corporate world as the chairman and CEO of Young & Rubicam Brands, remaining in that role until 2007.

A committed philanthropist focused on education and youth, Fudge has been a trustee at Morehouse College and on the boards of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Harvard Overseers, and Simmons College. She was named chair of the board of trustees for WGBH Public Media in March 2019, and also currently serves on the boards of Novartis, Northrup Grumman, and Senior Trustee at Brookings.

Fudge has also served as chair of the US Programs Advisory Board of the Gates Foundation and as a trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Council on Foreign Relations, and as a member of the State Department's Foreign Affairs Policy Board. Fudge has also served on the boards of the New York Philharmonic, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, General Electric, Unilever, and Infosys, in addition to serving on the Harvard Corporation Finance Committee and on the board of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

In 2008, Fudge joined President Barack Obama's presidential campaign finance committee and, in 2010, became a member of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. In 2011, she was inducted into the National Association of Corporate Directors Hall of Fame. Fudge has received achievement awards from *Ebony*, the Executive Leadership Council, and the Harvard Alumni Association. She was also inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2019. A former president of the Executive Leadership Council, Fudge was honored in 2005 with the establishment of the Ann Fudge Scholars program, which, to date, has supported the education of eighty-five young women at historically black colleges and universities. She helped establish the H. Naylor Fitzhugh Chair at Harvard Business School, and she and her husband, Richard Fudge (Bowdoin Class of 1972), have also set up scholarships at Bowdoin College and Simmons College.

