

## **Bowdoin College**

### **Commencement 1992**

**FRANKLYN GREEN JENIFER**, biologist, teacher, principled and courageous administrator, public servant, you have been a leader in higher education, in government, and in the numerous civic and corporate organizations on whose boards you serve. A graduate of Howard University, the flagship of the nation's predominantly black universities, you now head your alma mater as its 14<sup>th</sup> President. Howard University shares with Bowdoin College a common mission, excellence in education. History has linked our institutions in another way, for it was a Bowdoin graduate of the class of 1850, Civil War General Oliver Otis Howard, who 125 years ago helped establish the university which today bears his name. When you began your academic career at Rutgers University 22 years ago, the ashes from the fiery riots in Watts, Los Angeles were still warm. When the coals sprang back into flames this spring, startling the nation, it probably came as no surprise to you. You have witnessed that "good faith race-neutral policies" are not good enough to remedy a history of discrimination. You have argued forcefully that we must actively promote equal opportunity to dismantle barriers to public education, and you have made clear the need to preserve and strengthen the nation's predominantly black colleges and universities. Mr. President, I have the honor to present to you **FRANKLYN GREEN JENIFER**.