

A graduate of Harvard and the Harvard Business School, you have led a variety of corporations, institutions, and organizations to success all across the nation, including twenty-five years as a venture capitalist. You are currently a senior fellow at the Harvard Business School and the Harvard Kennedy School, as well as a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and the Harvard Corporation.

In 2007, you got the Maine Legislature to write, and the voters to approve, the largest innovative bond issue in the history of Maine, a \$50 million vital package that stimulated the development of composites, energy alternatives, and cluster development as well as helped to rejuvenate both the Maine junior college and college systems.

From 2009 to 2013, you served, with distinction and honor, the president of the United States in his cabinet as head of the U.S. Small Business Administration and part of the White House Economic Team when our country faced the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Exemplary teacher, author, educator, investment-stimulator, administrator and leader-extraordinary, you have been - and remain - a truly inspiring role model for both the women and men of Bowdoin and beyond, all the while serving as an incredibly vital and superb first lady of the College, thereby convincing many that Ernest Hemingway had you in mind when he coined the phrase, “grace under pressure.”

President Mills, on behalf of the College, I am honored to present Karen Gordon Mills for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.