

## **The Honorands of The 2011 Commencement**

### **John E. Baldacci Doctor of Laws**

John E. Baldacci completed his second four-year term as the 73<sup>rd</sup> governor of the state of Maine in January 2011. A native of Bangor, he worked in his family's restaurant while earning a bachelor of arts degree in history at the University of Maine-Orono in 1986. At the age of 23 he was elected to the Bangor City Council. Four years later he was elected to the Maine State Senate, where he served for twelve years. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994 and was re-elected to Congress by wide margins in 1996, 1998, and 2000. He served on the Agriculture, Small Business, and Transportation Committees of the House of Representatives. He returned to Maine and won the 2002 gubernatorial election. As governor, Baldacci is perhaps best known for Dirigo Health (a comprehensive reform of the state's health care system), the incorporation of technical colleges in Maine into the Community College System, the Pine Tree Zone program to encourage business growth in targeted areas of Maine, and his proposal to reduce administrative costs by consolidating school districts into regional school units. Through challenging economic times, Governor Baldacci sought to increase efficiencies in the delivery of health care and the administration of public education and local governments, limit tax burdens on Maine citizens, attract new businesses, and develop renewable energy sources.