

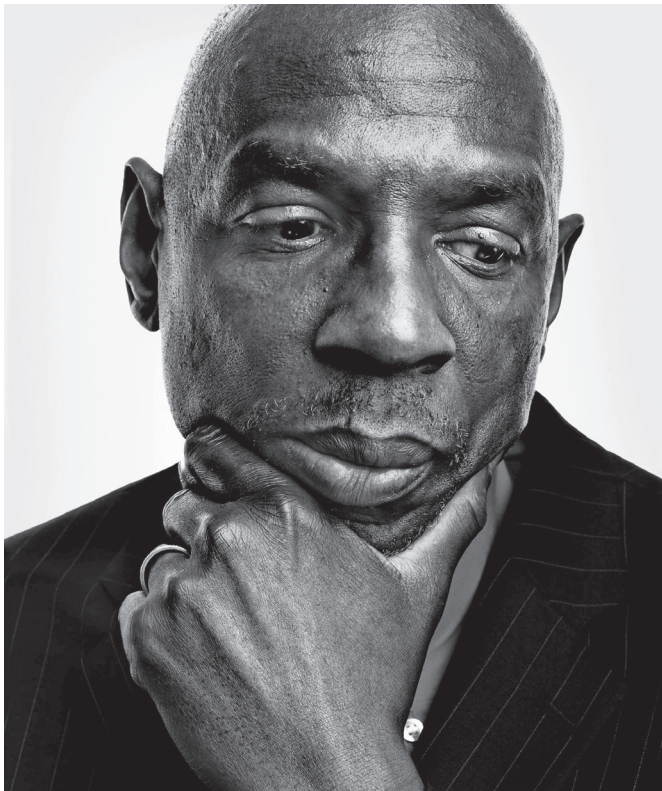
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## GEOFFREY CANADA

### Keynote Address

Geoffrey Canada '74, H'07, President of the Harlem Children's Zone



**Saturday, November 9, 2019**

**4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.**

Pickard Theater, Memorial Hall

A visionary educator and passionate advocate for children, community redevelopment, and education reform, Geoff Canada received Bowdoin's first Common Good Award and was awarded the College's highest honor, the Bowdoin Prize, in 2015.

**GEOFFREY CANADA '74, H'07** is a leading advocate for children and innovator in the field of education. Geoff grew up in one of the most devastated communities in the United States, the South Bronx, raised by a single mother. He earned his bachelor's degree from Bowdoin, and eventually went on to earn a master's degree at Harvard University. He vowed to help children who grew up in disadvantaged circumstances to succeed through education. Geoff created the Harlem Children's Zone, a birth-through-college network of programs that today serves more than 13,000 low-income students and families in a ninety-seven-block area of Central Harlem in New York City. The unprecedented success of the Harlem Children's Zone has attracted the attention of the media and leaders around the world. In 2011, Geoff was named one of the world's most influential people by *Time* magazine and as one of the "50 Greatest Leaders" by *Fortune* magazine in 2014. President Barack Obama created the Promise Neighborhoods Initiative to replicate the Harlem Children's Zone model across

the country. Geoff has been profiled extensively in the media, including *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *60 Minutes*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, and *Forbes*, among others. He was featured in the documentary about the dire state of American education *Waiting for Superman* and has received more than twenty-five honorary degrees, including from Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Dartmouth, and the University of Pennsylvania. He has also influenced a new generation of education reformers through his writings, having published essays in *The New York Times*, *The New York Daily News*, and *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, as well as two critically acclaimed books on poverty and violence: *Fist Stick Knife Gun* and *Reaching Up for Manhood*. After thirty years with the organization, Geoff stepped down in 2014 as chief executive officer of the Harlem Children's Zone but continues to serve as president.

Introduction by **MAURICE BUTLER '74**.

**Bowdoin**