

Citation for Clayton S. Rose
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Clayton Rose, business leader, sociologist, faculty member, and college president, Bowdoin College honors you today for your steadfast commitment to the power of a liberal arts education, your exceptional financial stewardship, your purposeful leadership in the most challenging of times, and your consistent and passionate devotion to this small college in Maine.

You grew up in California and attended college at the University of Chicago, graduating with a bachelor's and a master's degree in business administration. You then pursued an enormously successful career in leadership and management in finance, culminating as vice chairman and chief operating officer at J.P. Morgan. The pull of the academy remained strong through it all, so after twenty-one years, you left the world of business to study sociology, with a focus on the role of race in corporate institutions, completing a master's degree and a PhD at the University of Pennsylvania.

You took that learning to Harvard Business School, where, as a professor of practice for eight years, you taught and mentored students, some soon to enter the business world and others seasoned in their professional lives, challenging them to explore ethical practices and to develop their own leadership in the many worlds they inhabit.

In 2015, you became the fifteenth president of Bowdoin College, and in the eight years since, you have had a profound impact on this place, establishing the largest number of endowed chairs of any Bowdoin president—including four new chairs whose work focuses on race, racism, and racial justice. You have pressed all divisions of the College, as well as the board of trustees who support and guide us, to commit to actionable work to develop and sustain practices of inclusive excellence. Among many other things, under your leadership the College has significantly increased access for low- and middle-income students through the expansion of need-blind financial aid, most recently extending that level of support—and the depth of Bowdoin College's global commitment—to international students. You initiated and led the work to move beyond representational diversity and to articulate the need for every member of the community to gain a sense of belonging and equity of opportunity. To support these and so many other initiatives, including a commitment to more fully realize the power of liberal arts teaching and learning for the challenges of climate change in and beyond the Gulf of Maine, you embarked on, and we have nearly completed, the largest fundraising effort in Bowdoin College's history.

Your gifts as a leader were nowhere more apparent than in your handling of the coronavirus pandemic, and it is impossible for so many of us who were involved in the day-to-day deliberations and decisions to imagine a college president who could have provided more intelligent, judicious, steady, and caring leadership through this time. You drew on and respected the expertise of Bowdoin faculty and staff, appreciating the ways they understood their work and the challenges to it. You sought outside expertise and learned from others, but you never shied away from the gravity of responsibility you ultimately held for our students' education and for the health and safety of our community and our neighbors in Brunswick. Nor did you overlook the need to inject some lightheartedness, laughter, and, as conditions permitted, fun, into our efforts to get through those weighty days. You truly exemplify grace under pressure.

Bowdoin College Board Chair, Scott Perper, on behalf of the College, I am enormously grateful for the opportunity to present Clayton Rose for the degree of doctor of humane letters, *honoris causa*.