Vincent G. Sortino, native of New York City and adopted son of the Wyoming Valley, you have used your leadership position as the Vice President of Nabisco's Wilkes-Barre Financial Services operations to foster a focused and resilient partnership between business and education to prepare the work force of the future. You earned your Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Fordham University and then completed a Master of Business Administration degree from Baruch College. You have served the business world in leadership positions with three great corporations, Pfizer, Inc., Avon Products, Inc., and, since 1976, Nabisco, Inc. A lover of books and a practitioner of the art of conversation, you have taken every opportunity to remain current with the fundamental changes taking place in business and in the American economy, including becoming part of the world of higher education. You taught Finance as an Assistant Professor in the Business and Management Division of New York University. When you came to Wilkes-Barre in 1988 to head the expanding financial services facility for Nabisco, one of the area's major employers, you immediately got acquainted with the educational leadership in the Valley and challenged them to update the education our young people receive so that they will be prepared for the dramatically changing world of work. You soon became chair of the Business Education Council of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Partnership, bringing school superintendents and college presidents together with business leaders to reform our educational systems. When these educational leaders formed Project LEARN, the Local Education Action Resource Network, you were the first business leader to join the Coordinating Committee to make sure that the LEARN activities would be responsive to the changing needs of business. You have made Nabisco one of the leading financial supporters among local businesses of both the colleges and the schools in this valley and have involved your Nabisco colleagues in a broad series of joint venture projects between business and education. You have insisted that Nabisco not just be in this community, but be part of the community. Since January 1995, Nabisco has been the sole sponsor of the Junior Achievement Elementary Project in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District with a goal of inspiring young people to value free enterprise, to understand the impact of business and economics on people's lives and to be work force ready. In conjunction with the Ethics Institute of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Nabisco has sponsored the Philosophy for Children Program at the Montessori School to foster higher order thinking skills, introducing students from kindergarten to twelfth grade to the logical dialogue in which they can understand the concepts of "right," "fair," "good" and "true." In addition to these exemplary projects, you have served this community with board memberships on the Committee for Economic Growth, the Catholic Youth Center, the United Way of Wyoming Valley, the Osterhout Free Library, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, and College Misericordia. You are a model for other business executives to use their institutions to build this business/education partnership upon which the vitality of this community and, indeed, the nation depend. By the power vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University and by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I hereby confer upon you, Vincent G. Sortino, the Doctorate of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.