

Honorary Degree

John Brooks Slaughter.....Doctor of Humane Letters

A renowned engineer, educator, scholar and citizen, you have been an ambassador of science and technology, dedicating much of your life in distinguished service to helping others find and live up to their full potential. Your tireless and selfless advocacy has served to highlight the goodness in all young people so that their knowledge and talent, when inspired by their hopes and dreams, can be transformed into deeds and action that strengthen community, preserve and grow knowledge and affirm the dignity of all individuals. With a vision to see what is possible and how to achieve it, you have created institutions that are more inclusive, provide a greater range of opportunities and are better equipped for our future. You are a renaissance thinker whose vision, patience and perseverance have enabled you to cut to the heart of complex problems to find elegant and workable solutions in the most challenging of circumstances.

Born in Topeka, Kansas, you earned the Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Kansas State University in 1956 and went on to work as an electrical engineer for General Dynamics, the US Navy Electronics Laboratory and the Applied Physics Laboratory at the University of Washington. Your reputation as a researcher took you to the National Science Foundation, as assistant director for oceanographic and atmospheric sciences in 1977. Appointed as Provost at Washington State University in 1979, you subsequently returned to the National Science Foundation, appointed by President Carter, to be the Foundation's director – the preeminent science post in our nation. From 1982 through 1988 you served as Chancellor and President of the University of Maryland, and in 1988, you were appointed President of Occidental College in Los Angeles, a post you held until 1999. Following your service as the Irving R. Melbo Professor of Leadership in Education at the University of Southern California, you became President of the National Action Council for Minorities in Education (NACME) in 2000. In your current role as President and CEO of NACME, you are raising millions of dollars and creating awareness and opportunities that will send more Black, Hispanic and Native American students to engineering school.

Holding honorary degrees from 28 institutions, you are the winner of the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Award in 1997 and UCLA's Medal of Excellence in 1989. You were also honored with the first U.S. Black Engineer of the Year award in 1987 and the prestigious Arthur M. Bueche Award from the National Academy of Engineering in 2004.

With great admiration and appreciation for the life you lead and the strong and sensitive leadership you provide to every organization you head, we celebrate today your wisdom, your compassion and your unwavering and distinctive service. By the power vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I hereby confer upon you, **John Brooks Slaughter**, the doctorate of humane letters, Honoris Causa, with all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining