

CUNY Graduation Attracts Bevy of Prominent Personalities

Written by By JV Staff

Wednesday, 14 May 2014 17:39 -



Dr. Harold Varmus, M.D., Director of the National Cancer Institute and a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize for studies of the genetic basis of cancer, New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, the first Puerto Rican and Latina to hold a citywide elected position, Sarah Weddington, who successfully argued *Roe v. Wade* before the U.S. Supreme Court at the age of 26, Wynton Marsalis, the internationally acclaimed musician, composer, and Artistic Director for Jazz at Lincoln Center, Dr. Cora B. Marrett, Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation, Dr. Mario Jose Molina-Pasqual Henriquez, co-recipient of the Nobel Prize for discovering the link between chlorofluorocarbons and destruction of the ozone layer, Deborah Glick, Chair of the New York State Assembly's Higher Education Committee, Marty Markowitz, the former three-term Brooklyn Borough President, and Sheena Wright, the first woman to head the United Way of New York City will join CUNY graduates at this year's commencement exercises.

Leonard A. Lauder, businessman, philanthropist and patron of art, Edwidge Danticat, award-winning writer, filmmaker, educator, and activist, Richard Sandor, who created the foundation for the U.S. futures market and pioneered the field of environmental finance, Judge Edward Korman of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, who helped bring about a \$1.25 billion settlement on behalf of Holocaust survivors, Dr. Oheneba Boachie-Adjei, one of America's top orthopedic surgeons, and Letitia James, New York City's Public Advocate and the first African-American woman to be elected to citywide office, are among an impressive list of distinguished public servants, jurists, lawyers, scientists, educators, entrepreneurs, journalists, entertainers, scholars, award-winning authors and philanthropists who are the speakers and honorees for the 2014 commencement ceremonies at The City University of New York.

"The CUNY Class of 2014 is a source of great pride and satisfaction for our University, New York City and New York State," said Interim Chancellor William P. Kelly. "I wish to offer special thanks to CUNY's world-class faculty and staff who, together with the families of our graduates, alumni donors and college friends, have provided vitally important support that has helped make possible the success of our students and the joy of the coming commencement celebrations."

At City College, Millard (Mickey) Drexler, Chairman and CEO of J.Crew Group, will receive an honorary doctorate along with award-winning actress/singer Lillias White and Henry D. Perahia, former Deputy Commissioner of New York City's Department of Transportation, while President

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Lisa S. Coico will deliver CCNY's commencement address. Borough of Manhattan Community College will award the Presidential Medal to New York State Assembly Member Deborah Glick, Chair of the Assembly's Higher Education Committee, and President Antonio Pérez will be the commencement speaker. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, the nationally-acclaimed writer, author, social commentator and host of "The Michael Eric Dyson Show" on NPR Radio will be the speaker at Medgar Evers College.

Dr. Valerie Capers, the distinguished jazz pianist and composer who received her early schooling at the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, will receive an honorary doctorate from Lehman College, along with Dr. Michael Balick, a pioneer in ethnobotany who has studied the relationship between plants and people for more than three decades, and Bill Aguado, former Executive Director of the Bronx Council on the Arts. Richard Wald, former Senior Vice President and Consultant at ABC News, will be the speaker at the CUNY Baccalaureate Degree commencement ceremony.