

MANHATTAN COLLEGE ANNOUNCES 2017 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

Bettye H. Perkins, Ed.D., will be the keynote speaker at Spring Commencement.

Bettye Perkins, Ed.D., founder, president and chief executive officer of Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT), will receive an honorary degree in pedagogy and address Manhattan College's graduates at [Spring Commencement](#) on Thursday, May 18, 2017.

Perkins has been at the forefront in helping to close the teacher diversity gap in America's schools for more than 22 years. Perkins launched TSTT in 1994 with only seven students in Westchester County. Today, TSTT's full-circle regional collaborative teacher of color recruitment model has been successfully replicated in four states: New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Virginia. TSTT has produced more than 150 alumni teachers, and nearly 1,000 high school and college students are currently in the pipeline to become caring, committed and competent teachers and leaders.

Perkins has received the New York State Education Department Leadership in Education award; the New York State Association of Women in Administration, Pathfinder Award; Westchester Children's Museum, Scholars in Education Award; NY Chamber of Commerce, Trailblazer Award; and the Distinguished Service Award from the Westchester County executive's office.

Perkins received a bachelor's degree in education from North Carolina A&T State University, a master's degree in education administration from Pace University, and a doctorate degree in educational leadership and urban policy from Fordham University. Her work on the recruitment and retention of teachers of color has been published by Harvard Business School, among others, for the significant economic value and the critical social impact TSTT has made on our society.

The Manhattan College website has complete information on [Commencement 2017](#), including a schedule of events.

