



# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Elizabeth Marone, Office of Marketing and Communications  
Telephone: 860.231.5548  
Email: [emarone@usj.edu](mailto:emarone@usj.edu)

### UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH TO AWARD THREE HONORARY DEGREES AT MAY 13 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (May 1, 2017) – The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) will award three honorary degrees at its 82<sup>nd</sup> Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 13, 2017. This year's Commencement, divided into two events, includes the undergraduate ceremony at 10 a.m. and the graduate ceremony at 3 p.m. Both events will be held in front of McDonough Hall on the University's West Hartford campus, located at 1678 Asylum Avenue. This year's honorary degree recipients are: Christopher J. Dodd, J.D., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Motion Picture Association of America and U.S. Senator; Joyce James, LMSW-AP, Chief Executive Officer and owner of Joyce James Consulting; and Dorothy Bosch Keller, M'85, C'97, DAA'99, M.Ed., professor of Fine Arts at USJ. Joyce and Keller will speak at the undergraduate ceremony, while Dodd will deliver the Commencement address at the graduate ceremony.

**Christopher J. Dodd** represented Connecticut in the United States Congress – both in the House of Representatives and the Senate – for 36 years. As the state's longest-serving member of Congress, he pursued the interests of child welfare, fiscal reform, and education. He also spearheaded notable legislation, including the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act. Currently serving as chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America, Dodd continues his important work, now championing free speech.

**Joyce James** is a nationally recognized leader in Child Welfare with a specific focus on addressing racial and ethnic inequities in the child welfare continuum. Through her leadership roles at Texas Child Protective Services and the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities, James has improved the lives of people throughout the state of Texas and beyond. In Connecticut, she has worked with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families to strengthen its statewide racial justice initiative. James is also credited with being a catalyst for historic and significant state legislation that addresses racial disproportionality and disparities.

**Dorothy Keller** joined the University of Saint Joseph faculty as an instructor of Fine Arts in 1967. For 50 years, she has proven herself to be an active educator, art researcher, historian, and accomplished artist. In addition to participating in research around the

world – including the discovery of ancient tombs at the Ramesseum in Upper Egypt – Keller has delivered standing-room-only presentations at museums and institutions across New England. Her photographs and artwork have been featured in galleries throughout Connecticut and New York, and she has shared her expertise in several televised documentaries. Keller is beloved by her students for cultivating in them an aesthetic understanding and appreciation of the diverse beauty and rich history of visual arts.

“These three distinguished individuals have, each within their own area of expertise, focused on serving others and expressing the ‘sense of responsibility to the needs of society’ that is part of the University’s mission,” said University President Rhona Free, Ph.D.

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*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 26 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

1678 Asylum Avenue | West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-2791 | Tel: 860.231.5602

Fax: 860.231.5882 | [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu)