



CONCORD UNIVERSITY

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, HONORIS CAUSA

Willa Jean Dickens, your successful professional career, your extensive volunteer service, and your loyalty to Concord University are exemplary. You have made immeasurable contributions to higher education and to your community.

Born in Kentucky, but moving to Raleigh County, West Virginia as a young child, you consider the Mountain State your home. You graduated from Marsh Fork High School in 1957 and then worked for the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C.

You found your niche in the area of finances and devoted your professional life to working with and overseeing the financials for various institutions and companies during a career that spanned more than four decades. Your expertise benefited a land and mineral company, a bank, several colleges, and an osteopathic school, where your titles included Comptroller, Director of Financial Affairs, and Vice President for Financial Affairs.

Your work as a financial analyst in Concord's business office and later in development for the University are of special note in your career in higher education. You have also served Concord as an adjunct instructor.

Concentrating on business, you received a Regents Bachelor of Arts degree from Concord in 1981. You continued your education by earning a master's degree from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies in 1985 and a certificate from the University of Kentucky's College Business Management Institute.

You exemplify dedication to Concord University on many levels. As a student, employee, alumna, and volunteer, you embody what it means to be a loyal Concordian. An active member of Concord's Alumni Association, you serve on the group's Executive Council as Treasurer and are a member of the Pine Trees Chapter. For your contributions of time and talents to alumni and the entire Concord community, the Concord University Alumni Association named you a Golden Alumnus in 2014.

As a Princeton, West Virginia resident, your tireless volunteerism extends to the Princeton Lions Club, the We Can Program, the Bluefield Union Mission and your church, where you assist with local and regional collections for Samaritan's Purse.

You and your husband, Dale Dickens, will celebrate your 60th wedding anniversary in July 2018. Your family also includes two sons, two granddaughters, and one great-grandson.

For your noteworthy professional contributions to higher education, your dedication to your alma mater, and your strong commitment to community service, Concord University confers upon you, Willa Jean Dickens, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

CONFERRED ON
DECEMBER 9, 2017



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