

CONCORD UNIVERSITY

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, HONORIS CAUSA



Robert Tuckwiller, your exceptional career as a professional artist that spans nearly four decades, and your popularity as a beloved painter whose impressive collection of work brings enjoyment and inspiration to many, is worthy of special recognition.

You displayed artistic talent at an early age, loving to draw and paint as a child and doodle in the margins of your notebook paper in elementary school. When you were nine, your parents enrolled you in your first art class, and you continued your training at Concord, receiving a bachelor's degree in art in 1976. Adding to your credentials, you earned a master's degree from Hollins University in 2012.

Cultivating your talents, you found your niche as a painter of landscapes. Your original paintings depict the peacefulness and simplicity of rural life and reflect the pastoral countryside's quiet beauty. Acclaimed as a realist, you draw upon the mountains and farms of your native Greenbrier County in West Virginia and your current surroundings in Newport, Virginia for your award-winning artwork.

Working professionally as an artist since 1981, you have established yourself as a capable business person. While being a prolific painter, you have an outstanding record of selling your artwork which can be found in more than 30,000 private and corporate collections nationally and internationally. You have sold several thousand original paintings, and a good portion of your more than 100 signed and numbered limited edition prints are now available only on the secondary market. Your commissions include two murals, one at a hospital and one at a bank.

You conduct workshops, participate in select shows, and display work year round in several galleries. The open house you host annually at The Tuckwiller Art Studio at your residence has become a spring tradition for your patrons.

The Concord University Alumni Association named you the Outstanding Alumnus in 2005. You are a Virginia General Assembly Honoree, Greenbrier East High School Hall of Fame inductee, and a recipient of the *BlueRidge Country* magazine's Best Mountain Artist Award.

For your longstanding success as a professional artist and your contributions to the region's culture and your alma mater, Concord University confers upon you, Robert Tuckwiller, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

CONFERRED ON
MAY 11, 2019



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Linda Poff, your outstanding career achievements, your boundless enthusiasm for teaching, and your devotion to Concord University are especially noteworthy.

After graduating from Bluefield High School in 1972, you earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, Grades 1-9, from Concord in 1976. That fall, you embarked on a career in teaching that spanned more than four decades.

Your first stop on the journey was at Montcalm Elementary where you taught 4th grade. You later transferred to Straley Elementary, another Mercer County School, where you shared your gift of teaching with 5th and 6th graders. During this time, you furthered your own education by receiving a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Salem University, and returned to Concord to earn a master's degree in Education with a Specialization in Geography Education.

Although you retired from full-time work in the public school classroom in 2011, you continued to serve as a substitute teacher. Turning to higher education, you taught as an adjunct instructor at Concord from 2003 until 2013.

Your dynamic teaching style and your dedication to promoting geographic literacy are hallmarks of your successful career. Through endeavors with the West Virginia Geographic Alliance and the National Geographic Society, you coordinated the West Virginia Geographic Bee at Concord for eight years and brought several of the society's giant traveling maps of continents to campus for interactive learning fun. You trained at National Geographic Society conferences across the country and worked on staff during summer Geography Institutes for West Virginia teachers held at Concord.

An admired and respected educator, you are a recipient of the prestigious Milken Foundation National Educator Award as well as the National Council for Geographic Education Distinguished Teaching Award. In 1986 you were named the Mercer County Teacher of the Year and in 1990, the Regional Winner of the Rand McNally/NCGE Excellence in Teaching Geography Award. The Concord University Alumni Association honored you with the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2015 and the Golden Alumnus Award in 2017.

For your exceptional commitment to teaching and to advancing geographic knowledge and for your dedicated service to your alma mater and the community, Concord University confers upon you, Linda Poff, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

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