

The Class of 1964 Outstanding Leadership Award

Mary Flanagan, you are an acclaimed agent for experiential learning and social change across the globe. As the Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Professor in Digital Humanities at Dartmouth, you are making a significant difference and that is the hallmark of every great leader.

You are an exceptional teacher and a role model to Dartmouth's diverse student body. Your success as an innovator reinforces one of the basic principles of the Class of 1964's commitment to leadership: that leadership is learned, not inherited, and that everyone is capable of becoming a leader and making a difference.

Raised in humble beginnings, you were the first person in your family to go to college. You were filled with an insatiable curiosity as a child that was encouraged by the tinkering nature of your electrician father. You were given an Atari 2600 attached to a black and white TV which launched you on the path to becoming a gaming genius and an extraordinary global digital leader at the cutting edge of technology.

You were invited to join Dartmouth's faculty in 2008 with the hope that you would play a leadership role in moving the College to a more interdisciplinary approach to teaching and you have clearly accomplished this goal. Professor Ross Virginia of the Environmental Studies Department has called you "an academic rock star." President Hanlon has applauded your work as "an example of the academy taking on complex societal challenges and unleashing the creativity and potential of our students in the process."

Working with others to take action that brings about positive change is the true definition of leadership. The essence of your leadership style is embodied in your groundbreaking game designs and the establishment of the unique research lab Tiltfactor, whose tagline is "game design for social change." Mentoring your students, you have shown that games are a useful way to break down barriers and actually "tilt" people's perspectives. You have addressed many challenging issues including climate change, the importance of vaccinations, gender bias, and the reinvigoration of libraries.

Communication skills are essential for leaders and you have expanded how we think about communication. You are not only a lively and engaging public speaker and the author of several books but also a published poet and an accomplished artist whose works have been exhibited in world class museums. You are also a prescient game designer and inventor. To all these titles, today we add the title of outstanding leader.

You are a visionary game changer in a field that you virtually created with your own imagination driven by your boundless energy. You have said, "I guess I'm not your traditional professor." We wholeheartedly agree and now, on behalf of all the members of the great class of 1964, we are proud to honor you with the Class of 1964 Outstanding Leadership Award.

Game on, Professor Flanagan!

Given this 11th day of May, 2018 in Hanover, New Hampshire