



Press Release

November 2015

Williamsburg, VA - The Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) has recognized David J. Skorton with its 2015 Arts & Sciences Advocacy Award. The announcement was made November 6 at the organization’s 50th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The CCAS Arts & Sciences Advocacy Award honors an individual or organization demonstrating exemplary advocacy for the arts and sciences, flowing from a deep commitment to the intrinsic worth of liberal arts education.



In presenting the award, CCAS President Timothy D. Johnston, Dean of Arts & Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (at left in photo), announced that CCAS was honoring him for being a “tireless and effective advocate for the benefits of a liberal arts education.” Skorton, a cardiologist by training, served previously as president of the University of Iowa and most recently at Cornell University. This past July, he assumed the position of Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the world’s largest museum and research complex. “As a scientist, physician, and engineer, Dr. Skorton understands the importance of STEM disciplines and research. But he also believes that to understand what it means to be human and to understand the complex problems the world is facing requires the use of all the techniques we have at our disposal as humans, including the arts, humanities, and the social sciences.”

In accepting the award, Skorton thanked the Council and told the 500 assembled deans that he “strongly believes that an education in the liberal arts is essential and can transform individuals and society for the common good.” Further, he “pledged to continue to champion these endeavors that are so central to our shared humanity. The colleges of arts and sciences are absolutely critical in our shared journey to understand and to inspire.”

Learn more about the Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences at www.ccas.net.

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CCAS is the largest association of arts and sciences deans, with 1700 members at over 500 baccalaureate-granting institutions in the US, Canada, and other countries. CCAS is headquartered at The College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.