



Press Release

November 18, 2009

Williamsburg, VA - The national Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) has recognized Martha Nussbaum with its 2009 “Arts & Sciences Advocacy Award.” The announcement was made at the CCAS Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Nussbaum is the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago.

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 to Nussbaum, CCAS President Denise A. Battles, Dean of Natural & Health Sciences, University of Northern Colorado (on right in photograph), said that “Professor Nussbaum is one of America’s most influential voices for the power of liberal education. She has authored 14 books, edited another 13, and has four more in progress. She is a Renaissance scholar who moves easily across disciplines – ranging from philosophy, law and feminism to politics and economic development, providing a bridge between ideas and civic

life. As a professor, her prize-winning work has brought her belief in the importance of liberal education for citizenship and justice to thousands of classroom discussions, dorm room debates, and academic evaluations, shaping current discourse on social justice and democratic theory.”

Battles further stated that “Martha Nussbaum exemplifies the best of liberal learning. Her lifetime of work has highlighted the importance of ideas in civic life and public policy and has strengthened the importance of the arts and sciences both within and outside the academy.”

In accepting the award, Nussbaum thanked the Council and urged member deans to “keep on fighting” to retain the place of liberal arts in the curriculum,” so that, despite pressure from politicians and parents, “the purpose of higher education is not merely how to succeed in the global marketplace.”

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CCAS is the largest association of arts and sciences deans, with approximately 1600 members at nearly 500 higher education institutions. Taken together, our member institutions educate more than four million students. CCAS is headquartered at The College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.