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June 23, 2021

Hartwick College
Board of Trustees
c/o Lisa Corbett
Office of the President
1 Hartwick Drive
Oneonta NY, 13820

Dear Chairman Long and Members of the Board of Trustees:

I write to express a heartfelt thank you for selecting me for an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

As grateful as I am for this honor, I am even more grateful for your leadership and dedication to Hartwick College at this moment in history. You successfully guided Hartwick during one of the most challenging times in our nation's history. Faculty research, student growth and community-wide learning continued unabated during the Covid-19 pandemic. Indeed, the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021 showed their resilience as illustrated by the exceptional class speakers Matipa Mutoti '20 and Lydia Marteney '21. Making it through this moment bodes well for the College's future.

Receiving an honorary degree is a humbling experience. As I mentioned to President Drugovich, the singular nature of the degree is a bit unsettling. I am sure each of you has experienced that every success requires a team endeavor. An individual can provide vision and leadership, but behind every success is a collective effort by people at many levels. I share this honorary degree with all the courageous clients and dedicated colleagues who have been on the journey with me.

The daily climb up Oyaron Hill by students, faculty and staff is a good metaphor for life. While the honorary degree gives me a moment to reflect and enjoy the vista below, the uphill climb continues. I hope I continue to earn your trust and confidence in the years ahead.

Very truly yours,

Cyrus Mehri

cc: Dr. Margaret Drugovich, President of Hartwick College