RESOLVED, that Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York award Donna Brazile a Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, at the 45th commencement ceremony on May 27, 2016.

EXPLANATION: Medgar Evers College is named after the honorable Medgar Wiley Evers who had a long and distinguished career as a civil rights leader and lost his life fighting for social and political justice.

Indicative of Medgar Evers College with its mission of educating for social justice, Ms. Brazile’s work for advocacy groups in Washington D.C. and being an instrumental voice in the successful campaign to make Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a federal holiday make her an ideal candidate for an honorary degree at the College.

Ms. Brazile represents the type of ingenuity, perseverance, and commitment to community and public service that speak to the mission and vision of Medgar Evers College and our graduates.
Donna Brazile

In the last forty years, veteran Democratic political strategist Donna Brazile has accrued an impressive resume. Currently a chairperson on the Democratic National Committee, Ms. Brazile has worked as adjunct professor, author, syndicated columnist, and television political commentator. She has been Vice Chair of Voter Registration and in 2011 was the interim Chair of the Democratic National Committee. She has served as former chair of the DNC’s Voting Rights Institute as well. She is founder and managing director of Brazile & Associates LLC and at present serves on the board of the National Democratic Institute. She is an on-air contributor to CNN and ABC and has made appearances on political television dramas “The Good Wife” and “House of Cards.” Ms. Brazile has been a great many things in her life, but she has never been without a cause.

Her best-selling memoir, *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in America*, details her upbringing and hard-earned journey through the history of American politics. Ms. Brazile was born in New Orleans on December 15, 1959 as the third of nine children. She inherited a love of reading and politics from her grandmother. Her political ambitions started at age nine when she campaigned for a City Council candidate who had promised to build a neighborhood playground. Her passion for politics kindled, Ms. Brazile went on to study psychology at Louisiana State University. After graduation, she worked for advocacy groups in Washington D.C. and was an instrumental voice in the successful campaign to make Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a federal holiday. Coretta Scott King even asked her to organize the 20th anniversary of her late husband’s march on Washington.

Ms. Brazile’s passion for politics continued throughout her life — through 24 years of working on every U.S. presidential campaign from Jimmy Carter to Bill Clinton, and culminating in 2000 when she became the first African American to serve as a presidential campaign manager. Both caustic and Christian, she was never content with being part of the chatter. She strove to be part of the success. In the aftermath of 2005’s Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Brazile served for four years as a member of the board of directors of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, rebuilding her home state and advocating on its behalf on a national stage.

She has appeared in multiple “Best Of” lists such as Oprah’s O Power List where she was named one of it 20 “remarkable visionaries,” Washington magazine’s 100 Most Powerful Women, and Essence magazine’s Top 50 Women in America. She has received honorary doctorate degrees from Louisiana State University, North Carolina A&T State University, and Xavier University of Louisiana, as well as the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s highest award for political achievement.
Throughout her life, Ms. Brazile has been a profound believer that civil education and civic responsibility should start as early as elementary school. She has lectured at over 125 colleges and universities, and has taught at the University of Maryland, Harvard, and Georgetown University. She strives to inspire young people to vote and educate themselves about race relations, diversity, and sexism in the political system they are integral in driving. Her consulting firm promotes grassroots advocacy and training in Washington D.C.

Her witty style and clever political strategies have garnered the respect of her allies and adversaries alike; she has cemented herself in the history of American politics as a major player. In her quest to hotwire the American political machine, she has been an educator, an instigator, and an inspiration for a generation. Ms. Brazile represents the type of perseverance and initiative that speaks to the mission of Medgar Evers College and our graduates.