

62ND ANNUAL CONVOCATION & INVESTITURE
OF LAUREATES TO
THE LINCOLN ACADEMY OF ILLINOIS

Saturday, the eleventh day of April
Two thousand twenty-six

Dunham Hall
Dunham Theater
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Edwardsville, Illinois

Lincoln appreciated the power of 'living histories' as a source of wisdom and inspiration for future generations. The Lincoln Academy of Illinois was created to recognize the living histories of those who walk among us believing, as Lincoln did, that those living histories remind future generations of the endless possibilities ahead. We gather to recognize the living histories of our time – individuals who exemplify the highest ideals of their respective callings, whose lives and contributions to society perpetuate the complete spectrum of human endeavor. They are the 'Lincoln hearted' people among us.

*Dr. Thomas F. Schwartz
Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois
Illinois State Historian
1993-2011*

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

*Honoring the Great Citizens of Today –
Celebrating the Great Citizens for Tomorrow*

Welcoming Music

The Music Department String Quartet
Gracie Hayes (violin), Larysa Blavatsky (violin), Maria Rodriguez (viola), Max Ludwig (cello)
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Call to Order

Sergeant at Arms Eric Trimble, Regent of the Academy

Processional*

President of the Academy the Governor of the State of Illinois,
The Chancellor of the Academy,
Class of 2026 Lincoln Laureates,
Officers & Regents,
General Trustees,
Rectors,
Academic Trustees

The Music Department
String Quartet

The National Anthem*

Raegan Huitt, vocal soloist
with The Music Department Meridian Brass Quintet
Aiden Sawyer (trumpet), Madalyn Schrumpf (trumpet), Nathan Moore (horn),
Chase Tipton (trombone), Noah Mabb (tuba)
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Convocation Welcome & Opening Address

Todd Shapiro, Chancellor

**Please stand as you are able*

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Decoration of Laureates

LARRY GIES

THE HONORABLE VALERIE JARRETT

BLAIR KAMIN

DR. REGINALD E. PETTY

THE HONORABLE JESSE WHITE

The Honorable JB Pritzker, President of the Academy,
and Todd Shapiro, Chancellor of the Academy, will preside.

Remarks

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of the State of Illinois

Illinois

Raegan Huitt, vocal soloist
with The Music Department Meridian Brass Quintet
Aiden Sawyer (trumpet), Madalyn Schrupf (trumpet), Nathan Moore (horn),
Chase Tipton (trombone), Noah Mabb (tuba)
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Closing Remarks

Todd Shapiro, Chancellor

Recessional*

The Music Department Meridian Brass Quintet
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

**Please stand as you are able*

History of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

The Lincoln Academy was established by proclamation of the Governor of Illinois in 1964, shortly after the New York World's Fair. During the World's Fair a reception was given for some of our state's most celebrated sons and daughters which impressed Governor Otto Kerner and gave birth to a program to recognize distinguished Illinoisans annually through the establishment of the Order of Lincoln.

The ***Order of Lincoln*** honors individuals whose contributions to the betterment of humanity have been accomplished in Illinois, or whose achievements have brought honor to the state because of their identity with it, whether by birth or residence. It is the state's highest civilian award for professional achievement and public service.

Funds raised at the Academy's Order of Lincoln Convocation help provide the Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement awards and the 'Lincoln Medallion' which will be presented by the Academy's President to each of 50

Student Laureates at a separate ceremony held in Springfield later this year.

Thus, the Lincoln Academy honors the Great Citizens of Today and Celebrates the Great Citizens for Tomorrow -- knowing that now, as always, our state and nation need what Vachel Lindsay called 'Lincoln-hearted' men and women.

The insignia of the Order of Lincoln is a variant of the Maltese cross (with ten points rather than eight). The obverse displays the Arms of the State of Illinois encircled by the inscription 'Palmarum Qui Meruit, Ferat' ('Let him who merits bear the palm'—words from Horatio Viscount Nelson). The reverse central disc features the likeness of President Lincoln in gold. The cross is suspended from a ribbon in the colors of the state's symbols: red for the state bird, the cardinal; violet for the state flower; and green for the state tree, the oak.

The first Convocation and Investiture of Laureates to the Order of Lincoln was held on our 16th President's birthday, February 12, 1965, at the Chicago Historical Society. Convocations have been held in locations across the state every year since then. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in 2009, a special Bicentennial Edition of the Order of Lincoln was established, and thirty distinguished Lincoln scholars, collectors, artists, and curators from around the world were honored.

In 1992, Governor Jim Edgar, President of the Lincoln Academy, initiated the creation of a Hall of Fame of Historic Illinoisans whose achievements and contributions were made prior to the establishment of the Lincoln Academy in 1964. Fifty Hall of Fame Honorees were selected. In 2018, in recognition of the Bicentennial of Illinois, the Hall of Fame was re-constituted. Six new members of the Hall of Fame were selected by Academy Trustees.

The mission of the Lincoln Academy was expanded in 1975 by the Student Laureate Program, in which an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree-granting colleges and universities in Illinois and one student representing our state's community colleges are honored. Since inception over 2,500 young Illinois leaders have been honored.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Larry Gies

An entrepreneur and philanthropist, **Larry Gies** is the founder and CEO of Madison Industries, one of the largest and most successful private companies in the nation. His impactful story started in Mendota, Illinois, where he was born and raised. He pursued higher education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, earning his bachelor's degree in accountancy, and then went on to receive his MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. These formative college experiences sparked a lifelong connection with both institutions and instilled a deep belief in the transformative power of education and leadership.

Following his studies, Gies built Madison Industries, an international enterprise focused on building market leaders across diverse sectors including medical diagnostics, the life sciences, industrial equipment, and indoor air quality. Under his leadership, Madison Industries became a global powerhouse with an inspiring mission: to build a safer, healthier, more productive world through innovative solutions. The organization is now home to 178 facilities in 31 countries, with more than 10,000 employees, and 500 owner-managers.

Gies is profoundly committed to using his resources as a force for good beyond his business endeavors, having made transformational philanthropic contributions to his alma mater, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Most recently, he provided the largest gift ever received by its Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, renaming the campus' iconic football venue as Gies Memorial Stadium. He dedicated the gift in memory of his late father, a U.S. Army veteran, and it honors all who have served. His extraordinary generosity is also recognized through the naming of the Gies College of Business, where an earlier groundbreaking donation provided the foundation for the college to focus on advancing educational opportunities for the business leaders of tomorrow.

A tireless advocate for education and innovation, Gies regularly interacts with students, serving as a guest lecturer, mentor, and delivering inspiring addresses. He continues to give back to this state, to higher education, and to industry – serving as a Board Member for the Accelerator Institute and Amsted Industries, as well as a Trustee for Northwestern University and a Strategic Advisor for its Kellogg School of Management. He also is a founding supporter of the Chicago Jesuit Academy, an all-scholarship school for 3rd–8th grade boys and girls on Chicago's West Side.

A visionary who seeks to build lasting partnerships, Larry Gies uses his resources, time, and innovative thinking in both business and personal pursuits to benefit the people of the state of Illinois and beyond.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

The Honorable Valerie Jarrett

The Honorable Valerie Jarrett is an accomplished attorney, bestselling author, civic leader, and political advisor who has shaped our nation through her leadership. She currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of the Obama Foundation, where she leads efforts to inspire and empower others to change their communities for the better around the world. Her position also is pivotal in the development of the Obama Presidential Center, currently under construction on Chicago's South Side. The Center will be a hub for leadership and learning, reflecting the Obamas' guiding values and their emphasis on community impact.

Valerie Jarrett served as the Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2017, making her the longest-serving senior advisor in presidential history. She was one of the President's closest confidants and played a vital role in shaping domestic policy, political strategy, and public engagement efforts. During her time in the White House, she oversaw the Offices of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs and chaired the White House Council on Women and Girls.

Before joining the Obama Administration, Jarrett built an impressive career in both the public and private sector. She served as the Chief Executive Officer of The Habitat Company in Chicago, a prominent real estate development and property management firm based in Chicago. Earlier in her career, she held key leadership roles in the City of Chicago government, including Deputy Chief of Staff and Commissioner of Planning and Development under Mayor Richard M. Daley, and Chair of the Chicago Transit Authority Board, where she helped influence urban planning and infrastructure development.

Jarrett has served on a variety of boards including the Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc., Ralph Lauren Corporation, and the University of Chicago. She chaired the board of the Chicago Stock Exchange and was a Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She also has contributed her expertise to advisory councils including the Goldman Sachs One Million Black Women Advisory Board and the Bank of America Enterprise Executive Development Council.

A graduate of Stanford University, Jarrett earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School. She is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Finding My Voice: My Journey to the West Wing and the Path Forward*, in which she reflects on public service, community engagement, and leadership. *TIME*'s "100 Most Influential People" and Forbes 50 over 50 lists recognized her and the impact she has made as an advocate and leader. Her numerous honors and awards also include receiving the Abner J. Mikva Legal Legends Award and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Colby College.

Throughout her career, Valerie Jarrett has demonstrated unwavering advocacy for the people of Illinois and this nation, using her voice to inspire and empower others. Her impact continues, looking forward to the future, as she oversees what will be Chicago's newest cultural treasure.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Blair Kamin

Distinguished American journalist, Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic, and author, **Blair Kamin's** expansive career spans four decades. His unique perspective plays a significant role in shaping our understanding of how the spaces and places where we live, work, and play reflect deeper meanings and priorities, infusing his passion for architecture and its influence into his writing.

Kamin served as the architecture critic for *The Chicago Tribune* for nearly thirty years, where his advocacy, content, and analysis brought architecture into the civic conversation. During his tenure, he explored issues ranging from skyscraper design and public housing to parks and transportation infrastructure. He also has appeared as an expert on both television and radio programs.

His work has been honored with journalism's highest distinctions. In 1999, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism, recognizing a body of work highlighted by a powerful series of essays that examined both the problems and promise of Chicago's lakefront. In addition, he has received numerous professional honors, including the George Polk Award for Criticism, the American Institute of Architects' Institute Honor for Collaborative Achievement, the Wright Spirit Award from the Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy, and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award from the Landmarks Council of Illinois.

Kamin graduated from Amherst College with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He received a Master of Environmental Design degree from Yale School of Architecture and holds an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from Monmouth University and an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from North Central College, where he also served as an adjunct professor. His professional journey started as a reporter and architecture writer for *The Des Moines Register*.

His significant portfolio includes contributions as a lecturer at universities, professional forums, and cultural institutions across the country. He also has been a Pulitzer Prize juror. Additionally, Kamin is the author of five books, including *Why Architecture Matters: Lessons from Chicago, Terror and Wonder: Architecture in a Tumultuous Age*, and *Who Is the City For? Architecture, Equity, and the Public Realm in Chicago*. These works are a culmination of Kamin's thorough research and insightful analysis.

Blair Kamin has broadened the public's understanding of architecture as a fundamental part of civic culture. His journalism spans across the globe including discussions focusing on Chicago's lakefront, the rebuilding of Ground Zero, China's rapid urbanization, and the fire that nearly destroyed Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. His work continues to inspire architects, journalists, and citizens across the world.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Dr. Reginald E. Petty

Dr. Reginald E. Petty is a distinguished educator, pioneering civil rights activist, and historian who has dedicated himself to preserving and teaching the rich history of East St. Louis, where he was raised. Mr. Petty highlights that due to racial disparity in his hometown, he could not be born in the hospitals there but was born in the Negro section of Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. His knowledge of this event became a catalyst for his civil rights advocacy. His hometown, however, is just one beneficiary of his remarkable and influential life. His career – in Illinois, throughout our nation, and abroad – has focused on empowering others and ensuring that the struggles, achievements, and resilience of marginalized communities are represented and honored.

He is deeply invested in community development and historical literacy. As the founder of the East St. Louis Historical Society, Petty's work highlights the city's pivotal role in labor movements and the advancement of civil liberties. Through research, public speaking, archival work, and community engagement, he has served as a tireless advocate, salvaging books from the closed and abandoned East St. Louis Public Library and successfully securing a State Historical Marker in recognition of the 1917 race massacre in East St. Louis.

Earning two degrees from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, as well as an honorary doctorate, Petty's distinguished career encompasses accomplishments across the globe. In his early years, he endured dozens of arrests while dedicating himself to voter registration efforts in the American South, particularly in Mississippi. Through his leadership, he engaged with prominent civil rights figures, including Martin Luther King, Jr.

Following his work in Mississippi, Petty and three friends founded one of the first Job Corps facilities in the United States in Breckenridge, Kentucky. He was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as one of the first African American Peace Corps Country Directors. During his tenure in Africa, he served in Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Kenya, Swaziland (now Eswatini), and the Seychelles. After completing his tenure with the Peace Corps, he would meet and work with both Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress. In 1972, he was appointed by President Richard Nixon to be the Executive Director National Advisory Council on Vocational Education. He distinguished himself further as a consultant and authority on educational systems and economic development. While overseas, Petty developed a passion for African art, which he continues to share with others, not only for its artistic beauty, but also within an educational and historical context related to African, African American, and Africana culture.

Petty went on to receive presidential appointments from two additional U.S. Presidents, serving as an expert on vocational and technical training before returning to his hometown. Referred to as a son of East St. Louis and a citizen of the world, Reginald Petty inspires others, sharing his legendary gifts and talents. At the heart of his community, he is recognized as a voice of integrity who defined his remarkable legacy through a dedication to education, justice, and historical preservation.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

The Honorable Jesse White

A native Illinoisan, **The Honorable Jesse White** is a distinguished veteran, athlete, educator, and public servant whose life's work reflects an unwavering passion and commitment to service and leadership. Born in Alton, White began building his legacy of giving back through service to his country, defending this nation's values and freedoms as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army's elite 101st Airborne Division.

Following his military service, his talents on the baseball field led him to a professional baseball career with the Chicago Cubs, an experience that further shaped his outlook, providing invaluable lessons focused on teamwork, perseverance, and leadership. These formative years laid the foundation for a lifelong dedication to mentorship, the value of community, and the importance of positive athletic pursuits.

After his professional baseball career, he devoted 33 years to education within the Chicago Public Schools. In 1959, his passion for youth development culminated in the founding of the Jesse White Tumbling Team, an organization that has influenced the lives of tens of thousands of young people from the City of Chicago. What began as a small local initiative grew and flourished into a nationally recognized youth organization, guided by its lasting and inspirational impact. Excelling as students and athletes, the Jesse White Tumblers continue to provide hundreds of performances annually, attracting worldwide attention.

Furthering his mission to serve the people of Illinois, Jesse White then began a long career in government, where he became the first African American elected to statewide office. He served sixteen years in the Illinois House of Representatives, followed by two terms as Cook County Recorder of Deeds. In 1998, he made history as the first African American elected Secretary of State of Illinois, a position he held with distinction for a record six terms, until his retirement in 2023. He spent more than two decades leading transformative initiatives in driver and road safety, modernizing services, and dramatically expanding organ and tissue donation programs, saving countless lives.

Through his career, White has received a variety of honors recognizing his significant contributions, including the Jane Addams Award for Distinction in Social Service from the Chicago History Museum. He also was inducted into the Southwestern Athletic Conference Hall of Fame, the Chicago Public League Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and the Alabama State University Sports Hall of Fame, the institution from which he holds his bachelor's degree.

Beyond titles and accolades, Jesse White's greatest legacy lies in the countless lives he has touched over the course of decades. His commitment to both country and community stand as a lasting legacy of dedication, driven by his thoughtful and selfless actions.

In Gratitude to Our Convocation Sponsors

President

Illinois Athletics

Gies College of Business University of Illinois

Congressman

Ameren Illinois

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Honorable Rita B. Garman (ret.)

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Linda and Jeff Hanselman

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Illinois CPA Society

Illinois State University

Claire Manning and

Andrzej Bartke

Metropolitan Family Services

Delmer R. Mitchell

Maria Pesquiera, Healthy Communities
Foundation

Camilla and Ronald Rabjohns

Alexandra "Zan" Ransburg

Dana and Mark Slaby

Vicky and Doug Stewart

Evelyn Brandt Thomas

Gloria and Michael Tison

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Host Committee Co-Chairs

We are deeply grateful that Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is graciously hosting the 62nd convocation and investiture of Lincoln Laureates. Dr. James T. Minor and Dr. Edward Hightower have provided outstanding leadership as our host committee co-chairs.

Since becoming Chancellor in 2022, Dr. Minor has led the implementation of key strategic initiatives that have achieved remarkable results. Most notably, the university has defied national higher education trends, achieving significant increases in enrollment. First-to-second-year retention among domestic students has improved from 75% to 80%. Additionally, SIUE has experienced record-breaking fundraising under Dr. Minor's leadership while establishing a balanced budget, further strengthening the university's capacity to advance its mission. Minor's tenure has also included the ground-breaking, construction, and ribbon cutting of the 176,000 sq. ft. Health Sciences Building, the new home for the school of Nursing and Pharmacy.

Dr. Hightower was appointed a Trustee of Southern Illinois University by Governor JB Pritzker in 2019. Under his leadership as superintendent, the Edwardsville School District grew from 5,000 students to more than 7,000 students and became one of the top districts in the state. He was an NCAA Basketball Referee for 36 years, officiating in 12 Final Four Championships. Hightower received the Illinois Principal of the Year and the Naismith College Official of the Year and has been inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame and St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame.

Appreciation to Convocation Host Committee Members

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank the Host Committee for their work on tonight's event. The Committee Members were Rebecca Doyle (2022 Lincoln Laureate), Mark Goldenberg, Jessica Harris, Bruce Holland, Ed McMillan (2018 Lincoln Laureate), Dr. Aaron and Nakisha Omotola, Tami Craig Schilling, and John Simmons. Lincoln Academy of Illinois Rector Illinois Supreme Court Justice Joy V. Cunningham served as special advisor to the committee.

The Musicians

We are grateful to the individuals from the SIUE Music Department for sharing their musical talents with us this evening. The String Quartet are providing pre-ceremony music. The Meridian Brass Quintet will accompany solo vocalist Raegan Huitt. The Department Jazz Trio will provide music during the reception following the ceremony.

Gratitude to this Evening's Guests and Sponsors

Thank you for attending this evening's ceremony to recognize the 62nd Class of Lincoln Laureates. Your support of this ceremony, as well as gifts to the Spirit of Lincoln Endowment, advance and sustain the Academy's commitment to educate our next generation with the leadership and character attributes recognized in Abraham Lincoln.

The Spirit of Lincoln Endowment Fund and The Elizabeth Hubert Malott Education Endowment Fund enable the Academy to elevate its visibility, provide sustained support of current activities, and allow for expanded initiatives of the Academy across the state of Illinois and beyond. The top priority for these funds is providing sustaining funds for the annual Student Laureate Civic Engagement Awards, presented each fall. With a deep commitment to Illinois, the Lincoln Academy of Illinois seeks to ignite and inspire leadership in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Organization of the Academy

The Lincoln Academy is a nonpartisan organization governed by a Board of Regents and membership of General Trustees. Illinois' Governor is the President of the Academy, and the Board of Regents elects a Chancellor who serves as Chief Executive Officer.

The General Trustees are appointed by the Governor or are elected by the Academy.

Nine Rectors assist in identifying potential nominees for The Order of Lincoln. Areas represented are Agriculture, Arts and the Performing Arts, Business Industry and Communication, Education, Government and Law, Labor, Medicine and Science, Social Sciences, and Sports.

The Academic Trustees are the chief executive officers of all four-year colleges and universities in Illinois and three members at large.

Former Chancellors of the Academy

Michael Butler, Chicago (1965-1969)

Robert Bone, Bloomington (1969-1971)

William K. Alderfer, Chicago (1971-1975)

Thomas R. Mulroy, Chicago (1975-1979)

Marshall L. Burman, Chicago, (1979-1985)

John Trutter, Chicago (1985-2001)

The Honorable John B. Simon, Chicago (2001-2010)

Thomas S. Johnson, Rockford (2010-2015)

William Bennett, Chicago (2015-2016)

Stephanie Pace Marshall, PhD, Chicago (2016-2019)

Frank Clark, Chicago (2019-2022)

The Honorable Ronald D. Spears (2022-2025)

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Officers of the Academy

The Honorable JB Pritzker, President
Todd Shapiro, Chancellor
Harold B. Oakley, Vice Chancellor

Margaret A. Cline, Treasurer
John Freitag, Secretary
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Regents for Life

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The Honorable Bruce Rauner

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Alexandra Ransburg
Marc S. Schulman

Smita Shah
The Honorable Ron Spears (ret.)
Doug Stewart
Eric Trimble

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Julie Jordan Gunn, *Arts & Performing Arts*
Michelle Collins, *Business and Communication*
Larry Dietz, *Education*
The Honorable Joy Cunningham, *Government & Law*

Vacant, *Labor*
Vacant, *Medicine and Science*
Ricardo Estrada, *Social Services and Religion*
Vacant, *Sports*

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Rev. Stanley L. Davis, Jr.
James G. Gidwitz
Andrea Hasten
Robert J. Lenz
Gayl S. Pyatt

William E. Shaw
Courtney Shea

Hon. John Simon
Hon. Ernest Wish

**Sustaining Member*

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Hall of Fame of Historic Illinoisans

Created in 1992 to recognize early contributions to our state's heritage
prior to the establishment of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Robert Sengstacke Abbott
Jane Addams
John Peter Altgeld
Philip Danforth Armour
Priscilla Baltimore
Frank L. Baum
Black Hawk
Shadrach Bond
Myra Colby Bradwell
Williams Jennings Bryan
Daniel Burnham
Frances Xavier Cabrini
George Rogers Clark
Bessie Coleman
Edward Coles
Daniel Pope Cook
Richard J. Daley
Clarence Darrow
David Davis
Charles Gates Dawes
Eugene Debs
John Deere
Walter Elias Disney
Stephen A. Douglas
Theodore Dreiser
Otis Duncan
Ninian Edwards
Enrico Fermi
Eugene Field
Marshall Field
Lucy Louisa Coues Flower
Melville Weston Fuller
Harold 'Red' Grange
Ulysses S. Grant
Marion Mahoney Griffin
William Rainey Harper
Ernest Hemingway
William Henry Herndon
Henry Horner
William Lebaron Jenney

Mary 'Mother' Jones
John Jones
Keokuk
Kenesaw Mountain Landis
Julia Lathrop
Victor Freemont Lawson
Abraham Lincoln
Mary Lincoln
Vachel Lindsay
Gen. John A. Logan
Elijah Parish Lovejoy
Owen Lovejoy
Edgar Lee Masters
Cyrus Hall McCormick
Joseph Medill
Ralph Metcalfe
Robert Andrews Millikan
Harriet Monroe
George William Mundelein
Walter Loomis Newberry
Archange Chevallier Ouilmette
James Cleveland 'Jesse' Owens
Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable
George Mortimer Pullman
Julius Rosenwald
Carl Sandburg
Louis Henri Sullivan
Lorado Zadoc Taft
Christian Theodore Thomas
Emmet Till
Fr. Augustine (Augustus) Tolton
Lyman Trumbull
Harriet Elizabeth Vittum
Aaron Montgomery Ward
Ida Bell Wells-Barnett
Frances E. Willard
Daniel Hale Williams
Frank Lloyd Wright
William Wrigley, Jr.
Florenz Ziegfeld

Laureates of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Laureates Inducted in 2025

*61st Convocation – Urbana-Champaign
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
University of Illinois*
Bonnie Blair
Sandra Cisneros
Jeanne Gang
Janice K. Jackson
Carol Marin
Julieanna L. Richardson

Laureates Inducted in 2024

*60th Convocation – Chicago
Robert R. McCormick Theater
Chicago History Museum*
Evelyn Brandt Thomas
Lewis Collens
Hon. Rita B. Garman (ret.)
Alison Krauss
Lester H. McKeever, Jr.
Raul I. Raymundo
James H. Thome

Laureates Inducted in 2023

*59th Convocation – Springfield
House of Representatives
State Capitol &
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum*
His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory
Karen Hasara
John W. Rogers, Jr.
Thomas E. Skilling III
Jayne Carr Thompson
Paula Wolff

Laureates Inducted in 2022

*58th Convocation – Elmhurst
Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel
Elmhurst University*
William Brodsky
Debra Cafaro
Rebecca Carlisle Doyle
John M. McCarter, Jr.
Prof. Martha C. Nussbaum
Hon. Robert R. Thomas

Laureates Inducted in 2021

*57th Convocation - Chicago
Robert R. McCormick Theater
Chicago History Museum*
Capt. Scott D. Altman
Carol Ross Barney
Maj. Gen. John Borling
John Andrew McQuown*
Prof. John Rogers
Tommy Shimoda
Joanne C. Smith, MD*
Mavis Staples

Laureates Inducted in 2020

*56th Convocation - Normal
Braden Auditorium
Bone Student Center
Illinois State University*
Douglas 'Doug' Collins
Dr. Robert 'Robb' Fraley
Hon. Donald F. McHenry

Laureates Inducted in 2019

*55th Convocation – Springfield
House of Representatives,
State Capitol &
University of Illinois Springfield*
Jerry Colangelo
Edgar J. Curtis
Sheila C. Johnson
Hon. Benjamin K. Miller*
Dr. Olufunmilayo Olopade
George F. Will

Laureates Inducted in 2018

*54th Convocation – Rockford
Coronado Performing Arts Center*
Emily Bear
Richard 'Dick' Butkus*
Steven Shih Chen
Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.
Mellody Hobson
Ed McMillan
Dr. Louis Philipson
Dave Rydell

Laureates Inducted in 2017

*53rd Convocation – Chicago
Robert R. McCormick Theater
Chicago History Museum*
Frank M. Clark
Richard H. Driehaus*
Hon. James F. Holderman*
R. Eden Martin
Ryne Sandberg*
Samuel Knox Skinner
Harrison I. Steans*

Laureates Inducted in 2016

*52nd Convocation – Peoria
Cotillion Ballroom
Marriott Pere Marquette Hotel*
Robert Gilmore
Hon. Nancy Goodman Brinker
Hon. Ray LaHood
Leo Melamed
Scott Simon
Dr. Kevin Stein

Laureates Inducted in 2015

*51st Convocation – Springfield
House of Representatives
State Capitol &
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum*
Arthur H. 'Hy' Bunn
Ertharin Cousin
J. Roland Folse
Hon. Sara Vaughn Gabbard
Gary Slutkin
W. Russell Withers, Jr.*

Laureates Inducted in 2014

*50th Convocation – Chicago
Simpson Auditorium &
Stanley Field Hall
The Field Museum*

John A. Canning, Jr.*
Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Michael Krzyzewski
Newton N. Minow*
Bernard Rands
& Augusta Read Thomas
Rev. Donald Senior, C.P.*
Glenn F. Tilton

Laureates Inducted in 2013

*49th Convocation – Rock Island
Centennial Hall & Wallenberg Hall
Augustana College*

Brenda C. Barnes*
William Hammer
G. Timothy Johnson
Robert Lane
Robert Ontiveros*
Chad Pregracke

Laureates Inducted in 2012

*48th Convocation – Springfield
House of Representatives, State
Capitol & PNC Bank Atrium*

Jean Driscoll
W. James Farrell
James A. Lovell, Jr.
Naomi Burgos Lynn
Robert J. Miller*
William R. Schnirring*
N. Ronald Thunman*

Laureates Inducted in 2011

*47th Convocation – Urbana-Champaign
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
University of Illinois*

Richard Gray* &
Mary Lackritz Gray
Shahid R. Khan
Shirley Madigan
Dawn Clark Netsch*
Timothy J. Nugent *

Laureates Inducted in 2010

*46th Convocation - Chicago
Rubloff Auditorium
The Art Institute of Chicago*

William J. Bauer
Doris K. Christopher
Mary A. Dempsey
Mannie Jackson
The Joffrey Ballet
Lester B. Knight, III

Laureates Inducted in 2009

*45th Convocation – Springfield
Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum*

Jean H. Baker
Gabor Boritt
Michael Burlingame
Richard Carwardine
Julie Cellini
Cullom Davis
Eric Foner
Allen C. Guelzo
Harold Holzer
Charles M. Hubbard
Ron Keller
Philip B. Kunhardt III &
Peter W. Kunhardt
John McClarey
Edna Greene Medford
LeRoy Neiman*
Don Pollack
Robert Provost Jr.
Bob Rogers
Thomas F. Schwartz
Jack Smith
Lowell* & Rhoda Sneller
Louise Taper
Wayne C. Temple*
Lily Tolpo*
Daniel R. Weinberg
Frank J. Williams
Douglas L. Wilson &
Rodney O. Davis

Laureates Inducted in 2008

*44th Convocation - Carbondale
Shryock Auditorium*

Southern Illinois University
David Herbert Donald *
Irl F. Engelhardt
Joel M. Flaum*
William R. Norwood
Kenneth A. Shaw
Thomas M. Siebel

Laureates Inducted in 2007

*43rd Convocation - Chicago
James Simpson Theatre
The Field Museum*

Judith S. Block
Norman R. Bobins
Rev. Dr. John M. Buchanan*
Mary Ann G. McMorrow*
Linda Johnson Rice

Laureates Inducted in 2006

*42nd Convocation - Springfield
Sangamon Auditorium
University of Illinois Springfield*

Rev. Thomas J. Behrens
Richard H. Moy*
William A. Osborn
Garry Wills
The Zhou Brothers

Laureates Inducted in 2005

*41st Convocation - Edwardsville
Dunham Theatre
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville*

Edward A. Brennan*
David S. Broder*
Nick Holonyak, Jr.*
George E. Inglett
Jacqueline Joyner-Kersee
Stephanie Pace Marshall

Laureates Inducted in 2004

*40th Convocation - Chicago
Rubloff Auditorium
Chicago Historical Society*

Michael Beschloss
Harry L. Crisp, II
George A. Ranney, Jr.
Louis “Studs” Terkel*
Ernest R. Wish

Laureates Inducted in 2003

*39th Convocation - Normal
Braden Auditorium
Illinois State University*
Sister Rosemary Connelley, RSM*
Ronald J. Gidwitz
John W. Maitland, Jr.
Sherrill Milnes
Edward B. Rust
Rev. Addie L. Wyatt*

Laureates Inducted in 2002

*38th Convocation - Springfield
Sangamon Auditorium
University of Illinois Springfield*
Frank W. Considine*
Lou Conte
Jack M. Greenberg
Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman*
Bernard Shaw*
James B. Stewart

Laureates Inducted in 2001

*37th Convocation - Chicago
Rubloff Auditorium
The Art Institute of Chicago*
M. Cherif Bassiouni*
Henry B. Betts*
Roger Ebert*
Marian F. (Cindy) Pritzker*
Orion Samuelson*
The Rev. John P. Smyth*

Laureates Inducted in 2000

*36th Convocation - Springfield
Illinois State Library*
Gwendolyn Brooks*
Lynn Martin
Monsignor Ignatius McDermott*
Andrew J. McKenna*
Robert Eugene Richards*
Harold B. Steele*
Scott F. Turow

Laureates Inducted in 1999

*35th Convocation - Urbana-Champaign
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
University of Illinois*
Lester Crown
Jim Edgar*
Robert D. Novak*
Stansfield Turner*

Laureates Inducted in 1998

*34th Convocation - Chicago
James R. Thompson Center*
Peter B. Bensinger*
Preston Jackson*
Martin E. Marty
Patrick G. Ryan
John M. D. Shalikashvili*
Paul Simon*

Laureates Inducted in 1997

*33rd Convocation - Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol*
Gwendolyn Brooks*
Leonard H. Lavin*
Ramsey E. Lewis, Jr.*
Robert H. Michel*
Jerry M. Reinsdorf
Seymour Simon *
Joseph Cardinal Bernardin*

Laureates Inducted in 1996

*32nd Convocation - Evanston
Pick-Staiger Concert Hall
Northwestern University*
Willard L. Boyd*
Stanley O. Ikenberry*
Jeane J. Kirkpatrick*
Sid Luckman*
Alan Schriesheim

Laureates Inducted in 1995

*31st Convocation - Carbondale
Shryock Auditorium
Southern Illinois University*
James S. Brady*
Joseph B. Kirsner*
William H. Kurtis
Robert H. Malott*
Arnold W. Weber*

Laureates Inducted in 1994

*30th Convocation - Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol*
Alan J. Dixon*
Robert W. Galvin*
Steven R. Nagel*
Rev. John T. Richardson*
Kay Smith*
Anthony J. Watson

Laureates Inducted in 1993

*29th Convocation - Chicago
Merle Reskin Theatre
DePaul University*
Etta Moten Barnett*
John H. Bryan*
Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar*
Lester E. Fisher*
Richard Hunt*
James J. O'Connor*

Laureates Inducted in 1992

*28th Convocation - Decatur
Kirkland Fine Arts Center
Millikin University*
Marajen Stevick Chinigo*
William B. Graham*
John O. Honnold, Jr.*
Paul C. Laterbur*
Osvaldo I. Lopez
W. Clement Stone*

Laureates Inducted in 1991

*27th Convocation - Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol*
Arnold O. Beckman*
Harry A. Blackmun*
Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley*
Norman A. Ross*
James R. Thompson*
Elmer H. Wavering*

Laureates Inducted in 1990

26th Convocation – Chicago
Rockefeller Chapel
University of Chicago
 Mortimer J. Adler*
 Marshall L. Burman*
 James S. Kemper, Jr.*
 Leon M. Lederman*
 James B. Stockdale*
 William C. Warfield*

Laureates Inducted in 1989

25th Convocation – Normal
Braden Auditorium
Illinois State University
 John C. Corbally*
 C. Geraldine Freund*
 Eugene D. Funk, Jr.*
 Hannah H. Gray
 Elizabeth N. Paepcke*

Laureates Inducted in 1988

24th Convocation - Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol
 Dwayne O. Andreas*
 John Chancellor*
 Abraham Lincoln Marovitz*
 Raymond Joseph Meyer*
 Patrick L. O'Malley*

Laureates Inducted in 1987

23rd Convocation – Chicago
James R. Thompson Center
 Michael Butler*
 Paul Harvey*
 Walter Massey
 Walter Payton*

Laureates Inducted in 1986

22nd Convocation – Peoria
Dingeldine Auditorium
Bradley University
 James Beré*
 William Harrison Fetridge*
 Lawrence Rossi*
 Maria Tallchief*

Laureates Inducted in 1985

21st Convocation – Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol
 Ardis Krainik*
 Hiram Henry Lesar*
 Ruth Page*
 Daniel James Terra*

Laureates Inducted in 1984

20th Convocation - Evanston
Pick-Staiger Concert Hall
Northwestern University
 Leigh B. Block*
 Virginia L. Marmaduke*
 Arthur C. Neilsen, Jr.*
 John L. Strohm*

Laureates Inducted in 1983

19th Convocation – Edwardsville
Communications Building Theater
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
 Thomas R. Mulroy*
 Ralph Newman*
 Mike Royko*
 Bobby Short*

Laureates Inducted in 1982

18th Convocation – Urbana-Champaign
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
University of Illinois
 Donald L. Bitzer*
 John R. Block*
 Marva N. Collins*
 Delyte W. Morris*

Laureates Inducted in 1981

17th Convocation - Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol
 Thomas G. Ayers*
 James W. Cronin*
 Ronald W. Reagan*
 Adlai E. Stevenson III*
 John T. Trutter*

Laureates Inducted in 1980

16th Convocation – Chicago
The Chicago Cultural Center
 Paul Findley*
 John Hope Franklin*
 Arthur Rubloff*

Laureates Inducted in 1979

15th Convocation – Carbondale
Shryock Auditorium
Southern Illinois University
 John B. Anderson*
 Joan Walsh Anglund*
 William Alexander Hewitt*
 Robert Stephen Ingersoll*
 Leon Orris Jacobson*
 Albert Jenner, Jr.*
 Clayton Kirkpatrick*
 Marjorie Lawrence*

Laureates Inducted in 1978

14th Convocation - Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol
 Robert Gehlmann Bone*
 Irving Lee Dilliard*
 Ann Landers*
 Brooks McCormick*
 Samuel H. Shapiro*
 William G. Stratton*
 Daniel Walker*

Laureates Inducted in 1977

13th Convocation – Peoria
Scottish Rite Cathedral
 Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith*
 Charlton Heston*
 Celeste Holm*
 Otto Kerner*
 Hyman George Rickover*
 Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*

Laureates Inducted in 1976

*12th Convocation – Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol*
Rev. Preston Bradley*
Gaylord A. Freeman, Jr.*
Louis Goldblatt*
Burl Ives*
Edward Hirsh Levi*
Louis Courtenay Sudler*

Laureate Inducted in 1975

*11th Convocation – Lincoln
Johnson Center for the Performing Arts
Lincoln College*
Samuel Weiler Witwer, Sr.*

Laureates Inducted in 1974

*10th Convocation – Chicago
Orchestra Hall*
William Russell Arrington*
Saul Bellow*
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Benjamin (Benny) Goodman*
William John Kuhfuss*

Laureates Inducted in 1973

*9th Convocation – Moline
Administration Center
Deere & Company*
Richard B. Ogilvie*
Frank Everson Vandiver*

Laureates Inducted in 1972

*8th Convocation - Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol*
Jack Benny*
David Dodds Henry*
Percy Lavon Julian*
Mark Van Doren*

Laureates Inducted in 1971

*7th Convocation – Rockford
Maddox Theatre
Rockford College*
Archibald MacLeish*

Laureate Inducted in 1970

*6th Convocation - Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol*
Paul McClelland Angle*
Ernest (Ernie) Banks*
William J. Campbell*
William C. Westmoreland*

Laureate Inducted in 1969

*5th Convocation – Chicago
Palmer House*
David Matthew Kennedy*

Laureates Inducted in 1968

*4th Convocation - Springfield
House of Representatives
Illinois State Capitol*
Ivan LeLorraine Albright*
John B. (Jack) Brickhouse*
Katherine Dunham*
Arthur Goldberg*
William Edward McManus*
Edward L. Ryerson*
Rabbi Jacob Joseph Weinstein*
Roy Wilkins*

Laureates Inducted in 1967

*3rd Convocation – Springfield
Senate Chambers
Illinois State Capitol*
William Carl Ackermann*
Roger Adams*
Paul H. Douglas*
Hugh Downs*
Charles (Chick) Evans, Jr.*
The Fine Arts Quintet–Leonard Sorkin*,
Abram Loft*, George Sopkin*,
Gerald Stanick*
Richard Buckminster Fuller*
John Simpson Hastings*
Raymond Marcellus Hilliard*
Charles Brenton Huggins*
Mahalia Jackson*
Wayne Andrew Johnston*
Irving (Kup) Kupciet*
George Littlewood Luthy*
James Winchester Montgomery*
Charles B. Shuman*
Martin Wagner*
Robert Elkington Wood*

Laureates Inducted in 1966

*2nd Convocation – Chicago
Chicago Historical Society*
George Wells Beadle*
Edwin Carlos (Bill) Berry*
Edgar Hugh Storer Chandler*
Everett McKinley Dirksen*
Marshall Field IV*
Carol Fox*
George Stanley Halas, Sr.*
Ben Walter Heineman, Sr.*
John Harold Johnson*
Karl Albert Meyer*
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe*
Franklin Faller Offner*
James Michael Roche*
Walter V. Schaefer*
Robert Martin Trueblood*
Benjamin Coppage Willis*

Laureates Inducted in 1965

*1st Convocation – Chicago
Chicago Historical Society*
John Bardeen*
Joseph Leopold Block*
John Stephen Boyle*
Richard Gibbs Browne*
Avery Brundage*
James Edwards Day*
Rudolph Ganz*
William H. (Bill) Mauldin*
Albert Cardinal Meyer*
Nathan Mortimer Newmark*
William Alan Patterson*
Ward Louis Quaal*
Adlai E. Stevenson II*

** Laureates who are deceased*

