



NEWS RELEASE

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Event date: Sunday, May 7, 2023

ACADEMY AWARD WINNING ACTRESS AND ACTIVIST MARLEE MATLIN TO DELIVER NEIT COMMENCEMENT

THE HONORABLE JAMES R. LANGEVIN TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

PROVIDENCE, RI - Marlee Matlin, an Academy Award-Winning actress, activist and author will deliver New England Institute of Technology's commencement address on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence, Rhode Island. Matlin received worldwide recognition for her film debut in the movie *Children of a Lesser God*. At 21 years old, she was the youngest recipient of the Best Actress Oscar and the first deaf actor to ever receive the honor. She also received the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Drama. In 2022 her film *CODA*, which stands for Children of Deaf Adults, won in every category for which it was nominated in the Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Matlin is a dynamic and inspiring speaker, known for her determination and her advocacy work to help others. She has earned four Emmy nominations and appeared in television shows including *Seinfeld*, *The West Wing*, *Law and Order SVU*, *The L Word*, *Switched at Birth*, *The Magicians*, and *Quantico*.

Matlin has many "firsts" to her credit. She broke barriers when she starred on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*. She became the first network television director who is deaf for the Fox TV drama *Accused*. She was appointed to the Corporation for National Service by President Clinton and joined President Obama at the White House to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In 2022, she was elected to the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, representing the Actors Branch. Matlin released her first App, titled *Marlee Signs*, teaching American Sign language to millions of smart phone users. She has also written three novels for children and a New York Times best-selling autobiography, *I'll Scream Later*. She will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during NEIT's commencement in recognition of her work to improve life for others.

During commencement, New England Tech will also celebrate the achievements of the Honorable James R. Langevin, a longtime Congressman, advocate, and Rhode Island community leader. Langevin served in the United States House of Representatives from Rhode Island's Second District from 2001 to 2023. He has been a leading voice on national security, health care reform and the environment. He is known for his work to advance opportunities for those with

disabilities, and for his efforts to improve cybersecurity to better protect the United States. He has been instrumental in creating opportunities for students and advancing career and technical education.

Langevin has been a leader in the disability community, helping to open doors and bring down barriers and obstacles for people with disabilities. He has been a champion for stem cell research and worked on amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act, helping to clarify its intent and nullify court rulings that had weakened it.

He has been a trailblazer in the area of cybersecurity, working to develop an overarching strategy to better protect the United States against serious cyber-attacks. He is most proud of his legislation to create the National Cybersecurity Director position in the Executive Office of the President. He also championed the Respite Care Act to support caregivers of those with special needs and those who provide care to elderly parents. He's proud of the collective work done by Congress to pass the Affordable Care Act to provide health care coverage to millions of Americans. He served as a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and helped pass a bipartisan amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act acknowledging for the first time that climate change is a threat to U.S. national security. The amendment also requires the military to identify the most vulnerable military bases affected by climate change and evaluate how climate change will impact national security planning. In recognition of his achievements and public service, New England Tech will present Langevin with a Doctor of Humane Letters.

This year marks New England Institute of Technology's 82nd commencement. The ceremony begins at 11am on Sunday May 7, 2023 at the Amica Mutual Pavilion, 1 La Salle Square, Providence, Rhode Island.

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