

NANCY BETH LUBLIN
Doctor of Humane Letters

Presented by Associate Professor of Psychology Laura J. Holt '00

It was only five short years ago that *Fortune* magazine chose you as one of the “World’s 50 Greatest Leaders,” hailing you as a standout among social entrepreneurs. *The NonProfit Times* has named you to its Power & Influence Top 50 list not once, not twice, but three times. In 2014, you were tapped as the Schwab Social Entrepreneur of the Year. It is quite clear that you truly have dedicated your life to community service and social change.

You grew up in nearby West Hartford, graduated in 1993 from Brown University with a concentration in politics, and in 1995 earned a master’s of letters in political theory from Oxford University, where you studied as a Marshall Scholar. In 1996, while in your second year of law school at New York University, you transformed a \$5,000 inheritance from your great-grandfather into Dress for Success, a nonprofit that offers a network of career development support and professional attire as it helps women transition from welfare to work. While you started the organization in a Manhattan church basement with the help of three nuns, it is now a thriving enterprise for social good in more than 150 cities in 30 countries.

In 2003, you assumed the role of CEO of DoSomething.org and in your 12 years there took the once-failing nonprofit to great heights as it helped mobilize young people around the world to volunteer and work for positive change. Your extraordinary work there led *Fast Company* magazine to dub you “one of the most creative people in business.”

Not one to rest on past accomplishments, in 2013—while still at DoSomething.org—you founded Crisis Text Line, a free, 24/7 texting hotline for those in crisis. The idea was sparked by a cry for help that came via text to DoSomething.org, and within four months of launching, Crisis Text Line possessed a reach that stretched across the entire country. “We want to be where you are,” you note on Crisis Text Line’s website. “We want to make it as easy as possible for people who are in pain to get help.” With more than 100 million messages processed to date, one can safely say you are accomplishing your mission with each passing day.

You have shared your vast knowledge of social change with others by authoring several books, including *Do Something! A Handbook for Young Activists* (2010), *Zilch: The Power of Zero in Business* (2010), and *Zilch: How to Get More for Less in Business* (2011). You also are a board member of McGraw-Hill Education, a company that strives to create effective learning experiences for students. In your role as chair of the board of Change.org, you help lead an organization that allows everyday people to gain a voice by uniting with others through petitions. As a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, you gather with leaders from throughout the world to shape agendas in the global public interest.

In recognition of your worthy and unending contributions to the greater good, I have the honor of presenting you, Nancy Beth Lublin, for the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.