

2021 HONORAND

Katharine Hayhoe
Doctor of Science



“One of the world’s most influential communicators on climate change,” “a champion of the earth,” and “a climate explainer who stays above the storm.” These are a few of the ways in which you, Katharine Hayhoe, have been described.

You serve as The Nature Conservancy’s chief scientist, and at Texas Tech University you are a Paul W. Horn Distinguished Professor and the Political Science Endowed Professor in Public Policy and Public Law. An accomplished atmospheric scientist, your research currently focuses on developing and applying high-resolution climate projections to understand what climate change means for people and the natural environment.

It was at the University of Toronto, while completing your B.Sc. in physics and astronomy, that a class in climate science changed the trajectory of your life. You headed next to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where you earned your M.S. and Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences. Your prolific work has resulted in more than 85 peer-reviewed publications and more than 150 journal articles, abstracts, chapters, and reports. High-profile reports on which you served as lead author include the U.S. Global Change Research Program’s Second, Third, and Fourth National Climate Assessments.

Publications including *The New York Times*, *Wired*, and *O Magazine* have published your writing, and you host and produce the PBS digital series *Global Weirding: Climate, Politics, and Religion*. Together with your husband, Pastor Andrew Farley, you wrote *A Climate for Change: Global Warming Facts for Faith-*

Based Decisions. Your latest book, *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, will be published in September 2021 by Simon & Schuster.

You have received numerous honors and accolades, including being recognized as one of *Foreign Policy's* 100 Global Thinkers in 2019, *Fortune* magazine's World's 50 Greatest Leaders in 2017, and one of the 100 Most Influential People by *Time* magazine in 2014. A native of Canada, you were named Canadian Woman of the Year in 2019 by *Chatelaine*. Also in 2019, your "stalwart commitment to quantifying the effects of climate change" and your dedication to "bridging the broad, deep gap between scientists and Christians" were lauded by the United Nations as you received its highest environmental honor, Champion of the Earth, in the category of science and innovation.

You serve on key advisory committees for organizations including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, and the Earth Science Women's Network. You are well-known for inspiring diverse audiences to take individual steps toward minimizing their carbon footprints as well as joining collective action to address climate change. Your TED talk, "The most important thing you can do to fight climate change: talk about it," has nearly four million views. Whether speaking at an international conference, a local church, or the White House, you work tirelessly to explain and depolarize climate change. You do so by crunching the data, analyzing the models, and quantifying the impacts, as well as by adding a dash of humor in making your points. By way of example, you have said: "Gravity doesn't care whether you believe in it or not, but if you step off a cliff, you're going down."

In recognition of your extraordinary accomplishments and leadership in addressing one of our most daunting global challenges, climate change, I have the honor of presenting you, Katharine Hayhoe, for the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.