

Joanne Berger-Sweeney
Doctor of Science

“Her dedication and lasting contributions have made both Trinity and the broader community a better place.”

These words about you by Trinity alumna Francesca Borges Gordon '82, published in a 2025 *Trinity Reporter* alumni magazine tribute, offer a clear and succinct perspective of your time as the 22nd president of Trinity College.

Leading the institution from 2014 to 2025 as the first African American and first woman to serve as president, you were committed to the oversight of transformational changes in curriculum, enrollment, financial aid, student retention and outcomes, operational excellence, and fundraising, including seeing through to completion the historic All In campaign.

Among your many accomplishments, you served as the driving force behind multiple student-centered initiatives, including the Bantam Network mentoring program for first-year students. You prioritized Trinity's relationship with its home city as you worked tirelessly to strengthen the College's relationship with Hartford, including by expanding the campus footprint into downtown with the establishment of an innovation hub and the Liberal Arts Action Lab, part of the thriving Center for Hartford Engagement and Research.

As the product—and champion—of a liberal arts education, you have a distinguished background in neuroscience. You earned a B.A. in psychobiology from Wellesley College, an M.P.H. in environmental health sciences from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in neurotoxicology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where you did the proof of concept work on Razadyne, one of the world's most widely used Alzheimer's drugs. You completed postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Health (INSERM) in Paris, France. You have authored more than 60 scientific publications and have held grants from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and numerous private foundations, and you hold two drug patents.

You came to Trinity from Tufts University, where you served as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. You began your academic career at your undergraduate alma mater, Wellesley, as an assistant professor of biology, later becoming the Allene Lummis Russell (Endowed) Professor of Neuroscience, director of the Neuroscience Program, and an associate dean. Your research focused on mouse models of neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, and Rett syndrome, and how to cure them through pharmaceutical interventions.

Your numerous accolades include winning the National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award and the Society for Neuroscience Lifetime Mentoring Award and being named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society.

Your tremendous leadership experience includes serving on the boards of the Henry Luce Foundation, the Institute of International Education, the Allen Institute, the Dana Foundation, and the Hartford Symphony Orchestra; you also recently served as chair of the board of Hartford HealthCare.

A lifelong educator, you continue to share your expertise through Health and Science Solutions Inc., your recently founded firm that partners with academic and health leaders and boards to create sustainable solutions to leadership challenges. Next you will take your experience to Harvard Graduate School of Education as you embark on a one-year term as its president-in-residence.

In recognition of your achievements as a world-renowned neuroscientist, your unfailing belief in the power of a liberal arts education, and your enduring legacy as Trinity College's 22nd

president, I have the honor of presenting you, Joanne Berger-Sweeney, for the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.