

**2022 Distinguished Alumna and Alumnus Award Recipients
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Presented at University Day 2022

Dr. Nicole K. Bates '00 (MPH), '08 (DrPH)

Nicole Bates is a public health leader and strategist with decades of experience working to improve health and development opportunities in the United States and abroad. She currently serves as director of strategic partnerships and initiatives for Pivotal Ventures, a company founded by Melinda French Gates to advance social progress in the United States. As part of this work, Dr. Bates was the architect of the Equality Can't Wait Challenge, which awarded over \$40 million to woman-led organizations to advance political empowerment, economic participation, and employment opportunities for women and girls. Recognizing the important role of philanthropy to achieve these goals, she has developed a network of relationships and a diversified and highly valuable portfolio of collaborative platforms to advance gender inequality, wellbeing, and other barriers that hold people back.

Prior to her current role, she served as deputy director for multilateral partnerships and deputy director for global policy and advocacy for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. Bates led the design of the Foundation's first global advocacy strategy for child health with a focus on vaccines and immunizations, activating a network of advocates and political figures across four continents. Working with governments, the private sector, and civil society, these strategies tackled "wicked problems" and helped to build awareness, change policy, and secure funding for women and children, including pneumonia and water sanitation and hygiene.

Dr. Bates has also worked at UNICEF on projects to address child poverty, violence, and disease; for the Global Health Council on HIV/AIDS and malaria; for the Center for Community Change; in the U.S. Senate; and for the CDC's Chronic Disease Center. Her public service includes serving as a member of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health's Advisory Council and on the boards of the Ron Brown Scholar Program, Global Citizen, 1000 Days and Girls on the Run of Puget Sound.

Jerry Blackwell '84, '87 (JD)

A double Carolina alumnus — undergraduate and law school — Jerry Blackwell is a trial attorney with 35 years of experience addressing complex litigation matters around the country.

He has many recognitions, including being named Minnesota Attorney of the Year six times, leadership and achievement awards from the National Bar Association, named to Best Lawyers in America every year since 2010, and he is this year's recipient of the National Law Journal's "Winning Litigator" award, in addition to many public service recognition awards. He is a founding member of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers and the Minnesota Collaborative Legal Community Coalition, a legal education committee consisting of lawyers,

judges, and public interest organizations. He is also the founding partner of Blackwell Burke P.A., which has been named the Minnesota Firm of the Year for each of the past five years by Benchmark Litigation, a guide to leading litigation law firms.

Last year, Mr. Blackwell served pro bono as a lead Special Assistant Attorney General in the successful prosecution of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. Additionally, in 2020, in tandem with the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial Committee of Duluth, Mr. Blackwell was instrumental in securing pro bono the first posthumous pardon in Minnesota history for Max Mason, a Black traveling circus worker wrongfully convicted of raping a White woman in 1920. Three of his Black circus co-workers were lynched by a mob of 10,000 whites in Duluth, Minnesota, for the fabricated rape charge

President Joe Biden has nominated Mr. Blackwell to serve as the next federal judge in Minnesota. In September 2022, his nomination advanced from the Senate Judiciary Committee via a bipartisan vote of support, and his nomination has advanced to the full U.S. Senate for a final vote later this year.

Mr. Blackwell was an undergraduate at UNC Chapel Hill from 1980 to 1984 and was a Morehead-Cain Scholar.

F. DuBois Bowman '00 (Ph.D.)

A renowned expert in the statistical analysis of large complex data sets, F. DuBois Bowman is dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health. He joined the school in 2018 and leads the organization with expertise in biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, health behavior and health education, health management and policy and nutritional sciences.

Dr. Bowman's research program mines massive data sets and has important implications for mental and neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, depression, schizophrenia and substance addiction. His work also explores the impact of environmental exposures on brain function and structure in youth. His research has helped reveal brain patterns that reflect disruption from psychiatric diseases, detect biomarkers for neurological diseases, and determine more individualized therapeutic treatments.

Under Dr. Bowman's leadership, Michigan Public Health launched a school-wide interdisciplinary research initiative pursuing innovative solutions to prevent firearm injuries, create healthy and equitable cities, control infectious diseases, and pursue health equity. The school's research portfolio exceeds \$100 million in expenditures annually. The school has also expanded and refined its distinctive educational programs, which support over 1,200 students. Partnering with the school community, Dr. Bowman has also led efforts to establish a culture of leadership, service, and inclusion.

Dean Bowman is an active participant in numerous cross-campus activities at the University of Michigan. He has provided leadership on university initiatives focusing on Precision Health, Poverty Solutions, the Graham Sustainability Institute, and the UM Health Sciences Council, and

has supported university efforts focusing on budget, capital projects, professional standards, enrollment management, and the capital campaign. He also provided institutional leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and served on University level committees to guide the institutional response.

Dr. Bowman received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Morehouse College, a Master of Science degree in biostatistics from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2000, he joined the Department of Biostatistics in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University as an assistant professor and rose through the ranks to professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics in 2013. During his time at Emory, he was a visiting scholar at Carnegie Mellon University in 2000 and a visiting assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University in 2005. From 2007-2013 he was the founding director of the Center for Biomedical Imaging Statistics at the Rollins School at Emory. From 2014-2018, Professor Bowman was chair of the Department of Biostatistics in the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, where he served as the Cynthia and Robert Citrone-Roslyn and Leslie Goldstein Professor of Biostatistics.

Dean Bowman is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a fellow of the American Statistical Association, and he is past president of the Eastern North American Region of the International Biometric Society. He is a member of the editorial board for the Annual Review of Statistics and Its Applications and has served as associate editor of both Biometrics and the Journal of the American Statistical Association as well as a referee for numerous professional journals, including Human Brain Mapping, NeuroImage, IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging, and Journal of Clinical Oncology. Throughout his career, he has served on review boards for NIH and the National Academy of Medicine as well as on advisory committees for NIH, Emory University, Columbia University, the American Statistical Association and the Eastern North American Region of the International Biometric Society.

Karen L. Parker '65

Many words come to mind when considering Karen Parker: among them are trailblazer, resilient, steadfast, generous, creative, and kind. She has the distinction of being the first Black woman to enroll as an undergraduate at UNC-Chapel Hill, arriving on this campus in 1963 as a transfer student from Woman's College, now UNC-Greensboro. But that is only one example of how she has stood out as a student and throughout her career. As her nominators wrote, "As a student at UNC and as a professional journalist, she has always exhibited the courage, determination and compassion to make America and the world better places for everyone, determined to stand up for what's right, to exhibit through achievement what's possible and to make sure those who came after her enjoyed the opportunities she helped pioneer."

At Carolina, Ms. Parker was editor of the UNC Journalist and was inducted into the Order of the Valkyries. She was active in the civil rights movement, participating in sit-ins and protests and enduring two arrests for civil disobedience. Her diary from that time, which includes accounts of the 1963-64 civil rights movement in Chapel Hill and her experiences at Carolina, is maintained in the Southern Historical Collection at Wilson Library.

She worked as a journalist at several newspapers, including her hometown Winston-Salem Journal, the Salt Lake City Tribune, and the Los Angeles Times at which she became the Sunday news editor. Some of her professional service includes the UCLA Communications Board and the board of the Society of Professional Journalists.

In recognition of her career achievement, Ms. Parker was inducted into the North Carolina Media and Journalism Hall of Fame in 2012. Other recognitions include being designated the Carolina First honoree and 2020 speaker for the Eve Carson Memorial Lecture and the Harvey E. Beech Outstanding Alumna Award at the UNC Black Alumni Reunion 2004.

Charles H. Robbins '87

Charles “Chuck” Robbins is not only the Chair and Chief Executive Officer of a technology conglomerate with over 80,000 employees worldwide but is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which recognizes the outstanding achievements of individuals in academia, the arts, business, government, and public affairs—an honor that isn’t on the resume of most business executives

After graduating from Carolina with a bachelor’s degree in math with a computer science concentration, Mr. Robbins began his career as an application developer for North Carolina National Bank (now a part of Bank of America). He subsequently worked for several communications companies before beginning his over 20-year tenure with Cisco in the late 1990s. Prior to being named CEO, he served as Cisco’s Senior Vice President of Worldwide Operations and acquired an international reputation as a successful business leader. Mr. Robbins was named CEO in 2015 and Board Chair in 2017. As Chair and CEO, Mr. Robbins has been credited with accelerating the pace of Cisco’s growth and innovation while promoting transparency in business operations, humanitarian business policies, and inclusion and diversity in the workplace.

Mr. Robbins serves on the Board of Directors for BlackRock, the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum, the Business Roundtable, and is on the Board of Trustees for the Ford Foundation. He also serves as a member of The Business Council, the International Council for the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University and is Chairman Emeritus of the U.S.-Japan Business Council. Other past service includes board membership for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Northern California and the President’s Advisory Board of Georgia Tech.

Mr. Robbins attended high school in Rocky Mount, NC, and is an avid Tar Heel fan as well as a former player on Carolina’s JV basketball team. His generosity to the University over the years has included supporting scholarships for Carolina athletes.