DGALA Nomination of Cecilia Chung
for Honorary Degree

As reported in the November 2026 Green Light, in October of this year DGALA nominated Cecilia Chung to be awarded an honorary degree at commencement in 2027. The following is the text of the DGALA nomination, pursuant to the questions on the College nomination form.

Nominee's Profession/Field or Area of Expertise: Public Health.

Why does this individual deserve an honorary degree from Dartmouth? "When Dartmouth students graduate, we are sending them into the world to change their local, national, and international communities for the better. Cecilia Chung exemplifies change on all of these levels. A San Francisco resident since 1984, she has long been a steward of her city's LGBTQIA+ community. She served on San Francisco's Transgender Discrimination Task Force in 1994, which pioneered local protections against anti-transgender discrimination, and as part of the San Francisco Health Commission, she helped to make San Francisco the first city in the U.S. to pay for gender affirming care for uninsured transgender patients. One of her key areas of advocacy has been HIV/AIDS awareness. She was appointed by Barack Obama to serve for eight years on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. She published a paper as part of the international AIDS Conference in 2014, sharing her story with thousands of participants from over 200 countries to galvanize solidarity with transgender women.

"The above is only a sample of Chung's decades of service in supporting the LGBTQIA+ community, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, and those living with HIV. Chung has been recognized in popular culture as a leader: her story was featured in the 2017 ABC miniseries "When We Rise." However, the other recognition she has received tends to entail appointments to even more boards and commissions, honoring her by inviting her to extend her work even further. Chung deserves to be celebrated by an institution like Dartmouth as shining example of the caliber of leaders we aim to create."

Does this individual have any direct connection/affiliation to Dartmouth? No.

Does this individual have a website that chronicles their contributions to their chosen field? If so, please include it below. www.ceciliachung.com