

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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EMMY AWARD-WINNING ACTOR, DIRECTOR AND AUTHOR HENRY WINKLER TO DELIVER NEW ENGLAND TECH COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

DYNAMIC COMMUNITY LEADER ELIZABETH Z. CHACE TO BE HONORED

Henry Winkler, an Emmy Award-winning actor, director and author will be back for an encore performance at New England Tech’s commencement. Winkler is a familiar figure to the NEIT community. He delivered the 2006 commencement address and was immensely popular with students and their families. His message of hope, determination and succeeding when others doubt your abilities, resonated strongly with attendees. Commencement will be held at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center in Providence beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 1, 2022, and Winkler will be center stage.

Winkler first achieved fame for his iconic role as Arthur “the Fonz” Fonzarelli in the popular TV series *Happy Days*. His portrayal of the leather jacket-wearing, big hearted, tough guy won him two Golden Globe Awards, three Emmy nominations, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and worldwide recognition. Winkler continues to be in demand. He currently co-stars as acting teacher Gene Cousineau on the hit HBO dark comedy *Barry*. The role earned him an Emmy Award in 2018.

Winkler has starred in numerous movies including *Family Squares*, *The French Dispatch*, *Night Shift*, *The Waterboy*, *Click*, *Here Comes the Boom*, *Heroes*, *Holes*, *Scream*, and in the CBS sitcom *Out of Practice*. He has made appearances in numerous series including *Arrested Development*, *Children’s Hospital*, *Royal Pains*, *New Girl*, *Parks and Recreation*, and *Law and Order SVU*. He is a sought-after voice actor and has lent his talent to shows including *Rugrats*, *Monsters at Work*, *All Hail King Julien*, *South Park*, *Family Guy*, *The Simpsons* and *Clifford: The Puppy Years* for which he received a Daytime Emmy Award.

Behind the scenes, Winkler has worked for decades as an award-winning producer and director of TV series and specials. He has also directed movies. His commitment to quality children’s television is evident in the many specials he’s produced for young audiences. He is also a New York Times best-selling author. Drawing from his own experience as a child struggling with an undiagnosed learning disability, Winkler and his co-author Lin Oliver have written a series of books based on the character *Hank Zipzer: The World’s Greatest Under-Achiever*. Together they have published 37 children’s books which have sold millions of copies and inspired children around the world. Their newest trilogy, *Alien Superstar*, became an instant New York Times best seller.

Winkler has always believed in helping others. He is associated with many charitable and educational groups and has done extensive work to educate others about the needs of children with educational issues.

During commencement, New England Tech will honor entrepreneur, community leader, and noted philanthropist Elizabeth Z. Chace. She will receive a doctor of humane letters, honoris causa, for a lifetime of work that is woven into the history of New England. Chace's good works are evident in improved neighborhoods, increased access to critical services for women, children and families, her continuing support for women's athletics at Brown University, and access to education, technology, and music for under-resourced children.

Chace was co-founder of Residential Properties Ltd., now Rhode Island's largest and most successful independent real estate company. Through her work with Providence's John Hope Settlement House and Federal Hill House, Chace helped create programs that expanded educational opportunities for children and ensured that women had access to quality childcare, enabling them to work. She helped double the size of the daycare center at John Hope House, establish a school there for children in kindergarten through third grade and create comprehensive programs to assist families in crisis. Through Community MusicWorks she was instrumental in developing opportunities for under-resourced children to access quality music education and the confidence and hope it instills.

Chace served on the Rhode Island Foundation's Board of Directors and was one of the first women active on the board of Trinity Repertory Company. She served on the Brown Board of Trustees, was elected as a member of the Brown Board of Fellows and served as Vice-President of the Brown Sports Foundation. She traveled the world to raise money and advance opportunities at the University. She is an active supporter of women's athletics at Brown. She founded the Women's Athletics Golf Invitational, and she and her husband endowed the women's basketball head coaching position.

Colleagues credit Chace with being the first to step up when there was a community need to be met, and for gathering like-minded people to support the effort. She will receive a doctor of humane letters for her commitment to improving the lives of others.

This year marks New England Tech's 81st commencement. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. at the Dunkin' Donuts Center, located at 1 La Salle Square, Providence, Rhode Island.