

Kyle Abraham, whereas, you received a BFA in Dance as a member of the Purchase College class of 2000, proving to your fellow student artists, collaborators, and teachers, the magnitude of your talents; as a senior you were recognized by SUNY with both the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence and the Thayer Fellowship in the Arts,

Whereas, after you choreographed *I...An Earnest request* in your senior year, foretelling the breathtaking and thought provoking performances to come, you continued your studies in New York City, receiving an MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2006,

Whereas, in that same year, you founded Kyle Abraham/Abraham.in.Motion dance company, in which you have held the dual role of both Artistic and Executive Director,

Whereas, you also have danced with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, David Dorfman Dance, and choreographed for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and the former New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Wendy Whelan to name a few,

Whereas, you have received numerous accolades and awards among them the United States Artists Ford Fellowship and the Jacob's Pillow Dance Award in 2012, and a MacArthur Fellowship and the Princess Grace Award for Choreography in 2013. In recognitions of your talents, you were appointed the New York Live Arts Resident Commissioned Artist for 2012-2014.

Whereas, your work crosses style boundaries, fluidly merging traditional, modern, and classical techniques with hip-hop urban dance and melding this original choreographic voice with reflective music that is both personal and political,

Whereas, your choreography and namesake company reflect the best qualities of a Purchase College education – combining the fine arts and the liberal arts and sciences, simultaneously exploring dance styles and contemporary issues ranging from Eadweard Muybridge to Merce Cunningham, from Martha Graham to Michael Jackson; from Alzheimer's to gang violence and racial injustice,

Whereas, you have made numerous contributions to your alma mater, working with the next generation of dancers, selfless and committed to your art form and your community,

Now therefore do I, Thomas J. Schwarz, President, on behalf of the alumni, faculty, students and staff of Purchase College, State University of New York proudly recognize

KYLE ABRAHAM

Recipient of the **Purchase College President's Award for Distinguished Alumni**

Presented on this the 13th of May, 2016