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Raymond L. Handlan Receives Honorary Degree from Cambridge College

CAMBRIDGE, MA— Raymond L. Handlan, the Senior Advisor of The Atlantic Philanthropies, received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at Cambridge College's 37th Commencement on June 8th at the Bank of America Pavilion in Boston, MA.

“As a small boy from a small town, I got my opportunity for education through athletics,” said Mr. Handlan, who grew up in Jeannette, PA. “I know what you have gone through to get your education. Sometimes I didn't think I would ever get my degree. I don't feel as if I deserve this and I honor you who have earned yours.”

Mr. Handlan and his wife, Kathryn, currently reside in Greensboro, GA. Mr. Handlan is a man who has made it his life's work to pay attention to the inequities in society and worked hard to bring something better into being. After military service, Mr. Handlan returned to his alma mater of Cornell to work in the Development Office, where he raised over \$500 million in his first year. In 1982, he left Cornell to serve as Atlantic's first President, leading the foundation in its anonymous phase accomplishing much without taking credit. Mr. Handlan has served as a trustee of the Alliance for Aging Research, a member of the Futures Project Advisory Board for Brown University and on the Board of Governors of Indiana University's Center on Philanthropy.

Nearly 700 graduates celebrated the power of education at the College's ceremony. “Education has the power to transform and save lives,” said Massachusetts First Lady Diane B. Patrick during her

Commencement address. “But I’ve learned that when little is expected, little is achieved.” Mrs. Patrick, who also received an honorary degree, spoke about the low expectations that society holds for some of its children, insisting that these low expectations are responsible for the achievement gap in the United States. Mrs. Patrick charged the graduates to invoke a cycle of learned optimism, to teach children to look up, not down and to set their sights high, not low. “It only takes each of you to make a difference in one life. Our children need your help,” she added.

Founded in 1971, Cambridge College is a private, non-profit institution dedicated to providing academically excellent, time-efficient, and cost-effective higher education for a diverse population of working adults for whom those opportunities may have been limited or denied. Cambridge College has sites in Cambridge, Springfield, and Lawrence, MA; Memphis, TN, Chesapeake and South Boston, VA; Augusta, GA; Ontario, CA; and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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