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Alumna receives one of MacEwan University's first honorary doctorates

Edmonton, Alberta - MacEwan University alumna Brenda Barton has spent the last three decades focused on ending global hunger with the [United Nations World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#). Using her background in communications, partnerships and resource mobilization, she has affected positive change in food security, nutrition and food systems. Today, she is being celebrated as the recipient of one of MacEwan University's first honorary doctorates.

"We couldn't be more pleased with Brenda being selected to receive one of our university's first honorary doctorates," says MacEwan President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Annette Trimbee. "The impressive strides she has made as a global humanitarian since graduating in 1981 from MacEwan's Advertising and Public Relations program, and watching her career flourish ever since with her impressive contributions in her work as a global humanitarian truly embody the values of this university."



Barton began her WFP career in Nairobi as the organization's first field-based spokesperson, setting up a communications hub for the East Africa Region during the devastating Horn of Africa famine in 1992, the Great Lakes crisis and the Rwanda genocide in 1994. She then spent eight years as global deputy head of communications for WFP in Rome, followed by administrative and leadership roles in Southern Africa and Sri Lanka.

“MacEwan University and the City of Edmonton will always hold a special place for me,” comments Brenda Barton, WFP Representative & Country Director. “It’s where my post-secondary learning journey began, and it is because of the collaborative and supportive learning environment that existed back then – one that I know continues today – that helped shape my last three decades. So, to be one of MacEwan’s first honorary doctorate recipients is both very humbling and incredibly special to me.”

Today, Barton spearheads the WFP’s \$48.5M five-year country strategic plan in the Philippines to improve food security and reduce malnutrition while building the resilience of vulnerable populations to frequent natural disasters and shocks. A true global humanitarian, [Barton was recognized in 2020, along with her colleagues at WFP, with a Nobel Peace Prize.](#)

“MacEwan University couldn’t be prouder of Brenda and the permanent place she now holds in MacEwan’s history,” says Dr. Trimbee.

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To arrange for a media interview, please contact:
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