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**Global Advocate for Women and Youth Lauren C. Anderson Gives Keynote Address
at LIM College's 80th Commencement Ceremony**

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney also offers words of encouragement to graduates

May 24, 2019 (New York, NY)— Lauren C. Anderson, a global advocate for women and youth and former FBI executive, gave the keynote address at [LIM College's](#) 80th Commencement exercises on May 24, 2019 at 10 a.m. at David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center in Manhattan.

Ms. Anderson also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the ceremony and was presented with LIM College's Distinguished Achievement Award.

After 29 years with the FBI, Anderson now uses her geopolitical and international security expertise to work with women leaders and young people throughout the globe to prevent conflict, advocate for social justice, and challenge economic inequalities. As a Global Ambassador with Vital Voices Global Partnership, Ms. Anderson mentors women in Egypt, Somalia, Gaza, India, and the Philippines. She also works closely with several other international non-profit organizations that advocate for women and youth in areas that include diversity, sustainable business development, criminal justice reform, and personal safety.

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, who represents New York's 12th Congressional District, also addressed the graduating class. In 2016, LIM College presented Congresswoman Maloney—a staunch supporter of New York's fashion industry—with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in recognition of her civic and humanitarian accomplishments.

LIM College is focused on the study of business and fashion. Nearly 570 graduates make up the Class of 2019, hailing from 23 countries and 33 U.S. states plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. Receiving master's, bachelor's, and associate degrees, this is LIM's largest graduating class since the College was founded in 1939.

In her remarks, Ms. Anderson said, "You will come across people who will tell you, 'You can't do that.' But you can! Don't let anyone else set limitations on you. Most of us have moments of self-doubt and moments of lacking confidence, but they are just that—moments. You are the one who determines if you succeed or fail. No one else determines that. Only you."

"You have so much to offer others—even if you don't think that's the case. It's important to share your knowledge, your experience, your successes and, yes, your failures with others. Your age, your education, your socioeconomic status don't matter. I promise you there will always be someone who will be very grateful to you. You might say, or think, 'I don't have time for that.' But look at it differently. It's a way to share your experience and your knowledge with others, enriching your life and the lives of others—*with no expectations*. And sometimes you find out that you impacted someone's life – and oh what a gift! Each of you has the power to impact someone else's life."

"So, today, I challenge you to go out and share what you know and what you've experienced with each other, within your communities, and in the world. Never surrender your life or your values to anyone or anything. Your integrity and your character are what defines you. You can love what you do, but never forget who you are. You are not an institution or a profession. You are you. It's your relationships that matter," Ms. Anderson concluded.

In her remarks to the graduates, President Elizabeth S. Marcuse stressed the importance of being courageous, saying, "There will be times in your career when you'll need to step out of your comfort zone and take a risk. This may mean taking a job, leaving a job, launching a new business, earning another degree or moving to a different country. While all these things can be very exciting, they can also be very scary. That's o.k.! Having courage doesn't mean that you won't feel afraid. It means that you will continue to move forward despite that fear... Courage comes in many forms—and it's something most of you have already shown you have in abundance."

Alexandra Helmer, a Visual Studies major from Waynesville, North Carolina was the undergraduate Class of 2019 Valedictorian. After graduation Ms. Helmer will join the e-commerce/digital department at John Varvatos Enterprises, at the luxury men's lifestyle brand's corporate office in New York City.

Kikuno Nonoyama, a professor in the Arts & Sciences Department, received the Adrian G. Marcuse Award for Teaching Excellence. Named in honor of LIM College's president from 1972-2002, this award is given to a faculty member who performs in exemplary fashion in the classroom and consistently embodies the College's core values.

LIM College presented its Maxwell F. Marcuse Award to Kristi Sloe, Class of 1996, Vice President of Global Product Development for Laura Mercier. Named for LIM's founder, the Maxwell F. Marcuse Award is the College's highest alumni honor, recognizing a graduate who has reached the pinnacle of success within the business of fashion.

Bianca Caampued, Class of 2007, Co-Founder + Creative Director of Small Girls PR, a digital public relations agency, was this year's Shining Star Alumni Award recipient and Stefani O'Sullivan, Class of 2013, Global Brand Marketing Manager at Moda Operandi, a luxury e-commerce retailer, received the Rising Star Alumni Award.

President Marcuse concluded, "2019 is a particularly significant year for LIM College. In addition to having an absolutely stellar graduating class, we are also celebrating our 80th anniversary... One of the reasons LIM has been able to stand the test of time is that we have never stopped progressing as the world has changed around us. And while this 80th

Commencement may seem like a good time to look back, it's an even better time to look forward.”

The ceremony was also streamed live online and is available for viewing at:

<http://www.limcollege.edu/commencement>

About LIM College

Founded in 1939, LIM College educates students for success in the global business of fashion and its many related industries. As a pioneer in experiential education, LIM College fosters a unique connection between real-world experience and academic study in business principles, offering master's, bachelor's and associate degree programs. LIM College is located in four buildings in Manhattan — the nation's fashion and business capital — giving students vast opportunities for hands-on experience and professional development. Alumni have gone on to excel at top companies, including Amazon, Refinery 29, Harper's Bazaar, Barneys New York, Chanel, and Neiman Marcus.