



Announcing The 2019 Charter College of Education Commencement Speaker

Haben Girma

Disability Rights Lawyer, Author, and Speaker

The first Deafblind person to graduate from Harvard Law School, Haben Girma advocates for equal opportunities for people with disabilities. President Obama named her a White House Champion of Change. She received the Helen Keller Achievement Award from the American Foundation for the Blind, and a spot on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list. President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Chancellor Angela Merkel have all honored Haben. Her work has been featured in the Financial Times, BBC, Washington Post, NPR, and more. Haben believes disability is an opportunity for innovation. She travels the world teaching the benefits of choosing inclusion and is author of the book, *Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law*.

Charter College of Education Professor, Dr. Cheryl Kamei-Hannan, program faculty in Special Education, Option in Visual Impairment & Blindness, has worked in the field of visual impairment and blindness for over twenty-five years. Dr. Kamei-Hannan has a special connection to our speaker, having been a student teacher in her classroom when Haben was in fourth grade. Dr. Kamei-Hannan remembers Haben as one of her inspirations for completing her credential and continuing in the field of visual impairment.

The CCOE has distinguished programs in Visual Impairment (VI) and Orientation and Mobility (O&M). The credential program prepares teachers to work with infants, toddlers, children, and youth who are blind and visually impaired, including those with multiple disabilities. Students learn to teach academic and functional skills, including reading and writing braille, independent living skills, low vision efficiency, use of assistive technology, leisure/recreation skills, vocational/transition, and social skills. The Orientation & Mobility Program prepares specialists to provide instruction in independent movement and travel skills in home, school and community settings for individuals with visual impairments of all ages and incorporates extensive hands-on training and fieldwork experiences with coursework in visual impairment, theory and effective teaching practices.

The CCOE is honored to have Haben Girma join us and share her experiences and knowledge with our graduates. We believe that you, too, will be inspired by Haben's story.

CHARTER COLLEGE OF EDUCATION | 2019 COMMENCEMENT | UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM
Monday, May 20, 2019 | 4:30 p.m.