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Rivier University in Nashua announces 2015 commencement speaker

Dr. Karen Daley, a longtime nurse, educator and public health advocate, will speak to the Rivier University Class of 2015 at the school's 80th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9, at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, Mass.

The university, which educates the largest number of nurses in the state, will present Daley with an honorary doctorate in humane letters.

Daley worked as a caregiver and senior staff nurse at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston for 25 years, and served as president of the American Nurses Association.

She was named one of the "100 Most Influential People in Healthcare" in 2011 and one of the "Top 25 Women in Healthcare" in 2013 by Modern Healthcare. Daley was named a "Living Legend" by the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses, and she was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing for her advocacy work.

After sustaining a workplace needle injury that infected her with HIV and hepatitis C, Daley became a strong advocate for safe handling of needles. She was a key player in the passage of the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act, signed by President Bill Clinton, which mandates the use of safer needle devices.

Daley holds a Ph.D. and a Master of Science in nursing from Boston College and a master's in public health from Boston University.

– Telegraph staff

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