

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

MARY LYON AWARD 2020

PRESENTED TO



Ellen Chimba Chitemba '17

ELLEN (CHMBA) CHILEMBA, CLASS OF 2017, the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College is pleased to honor you with the Mary Lyon Award. This award is presented to an alum who graduated no more than fifteen years ago and who has demonstrated sustained achievements in their life and career consistent with the humane values that Mary Lyon exemplified and inspired in others.

Ellen, as an entrepreneur, you have received international acclaim for founding Tiwale, a for-profit social enterprise located in your home country of Malawi that helps women in one of the world's poorest countries climb out of poverty.

Before graduating from Mount Holyoke, you were motivated to establish Tiwale by the plight of a Malawian woman who, at the age of seventeen, was raising three children while unemployed and living in extreme poverty. Tiwale (which means "Let us shine. Radiate.") has since helped to educate and uplift women through leadership workshops, micro-loans, vocational skills training and education grants. By the time you graduated from Mount Holyoke, Tiwale had trained 150 women in business education programs, taught sixty-six women vocational skills, and enabled forty women to start successful businesses.

Nationally recognized for your work, in 2016 Forbes named you to its list of 30 Under 30 African Entrepreneurs. You have received the Commonwealth Youth Award for Excellence in Development Work and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Entrepreneurial Award, and you have been a speaker and panelist at universities and conferences, including the United Nations General Assembly. You were named Glamour magazine's 2017 College Woman of the Year, among other notable recognitions.

ELLEN, in recognition of your exceptional early career achievements and in anticipation of your future contributions to social and economic equity, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Mary Lyon Award.

MARIA Z. MOSSAIDES '73
PRESIDENT
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

NANCY BELLOWS PEREZ '76
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE