

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

MARY LYON AWARD 2021

PRESENTED TO



Yedalis Ruiz F'08

YEDALIS RUÍZ, FRANCES PERKINS SCHOLAR 2008, the Alumnae Association 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.

Yedalis, your work reflects your longstanding commitment to ensuring that first-generation and minority students are encouraged and supported on their academic journeys. After graduation, you became director of Take the Lead, a nationally recognized program at Mount Holyoke focused on empowering and supporting 11th grade girls who are passionate about social change. You earned a master's degree in policy studies in education and a Ph.D. in educational policy and research, both from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Your dissertation research expanded existing theories of college access and choice to include the experiences, knowledge and beliefs of youth of color who are first-generation college students.

You are currently director of the Student Bridges program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, which aims to build partnerships with local schools and community organizations, offering college awareness, preparation and success activities, and advocating for enhanced institutional and public policies and practices.

In recognition of your exceptional early career achievements and in anticipation of your future contributions to addressing access and equity in higher education, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Mary Lyon Award.

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

LIZ LIERMAN
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE