

Cathy N. Davidson is a leading voice on the intersection of technology, society, and education. She is the **2025 recipient of the Harold W. McGraw Jr. Prize in Higher Education**, a lifetime achievement award recognizing her "pioneering contributions that have advanced learning opportunities and impacted countless lives."

Throughout her distinguished career, Davidson has bridged the gap between elite research and public service. She was appointed by **President Barack Obama** to the National Council on the Humanities, has twice keynoted the **Nobel Prize Committee's Forum**, and served on the board of directors for **Mozilla**.

As an administrator and educator, she served as Senior Advisor on Transformation to the Chancellor of **CUNY** (2019-2025) and was the first Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies at **Duke University**. In 2000, she co-founded **HASTAC** (the Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory), the world's first academic social network, which predated both MySpace and Facebook.

Davidson's hands-on approach to technology is legendary. Her "usability testing" famously helped crash Google Wave during its beta phase, saving the company millions in development. Today, she continues this work through her blog series, "**Intelligent Artifice**," where she explores how to think wisely alongside AI.

Her prolific writing includes:

- **The New Education** (2017) and **The New College Classroom** (2022) - Both winners of the Frederic W. Ness Book Prize.
- **Revolution and the Word** (1986) – A classic in American literary history.
- **Faculties** (Forthcoming Fall 2026) – A dialogue on constructive institutional change.

Currently a member of the Science, Technology, and Social Values Lab at the **Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton)**, Davidson is writing a new historical study of GenAI. She has delivered over 250 keynotes in 25 countries, advising organizations ranging from the Mellon Foundation to Google and IBM. She lives in New York City with her husband, Ken Wissoker.