

Below is the text of the petition asking the Board of Governors to rescind its decision to invite and honor Dr. Rice. The petition has been signed by over 375 Rutgers faculty members; the list of signatories follows.

We, the undersigned Rutgers faculty members, are outraged and offended by the resolution of the Board of Governors to invite former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to be the keynote speaker at this year's Commencement, and to award her an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

The mission of a University is to promote truth and knowledge, including historical knowledge. A commencement speaker is supposed to represent a model of citizenship to graduating students. To have Condoleezza Rice perform this role at Rutgers betrays both our mission and the trust of our students. It dishonors the Board and all of us.

As National Security Adviser (2001-2005), Dr. Rice directly participated in the decision to launch the second Iraq war. She played a leading role in the campaign of distortions and lies seeking to justify that war, repeatedly alleging that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, and that links had been established between al Qaeda and the Saddam Hussein regime. As Secretary of State (2005-2009), well after these allegations had been proven false, Dr. Rice never acknowledged that her claims had misled the country.

Condoleezza Rice was also fully associated with the Bush administration's torture policy of "enhanced interrogation techniques," such as waterboarding. Her later statement that she "didn't authorize anything," but only "conveyed the authorization of the administration" to the CIA, merely adds her name to the infamous list of participants in crimes of war claiming that "they only followed orders."

The fact is that Dr. Rice has a central responsibility in an unjustifiable war that caused the death of over 100,000 men, women and children, and the displacement of millions of others. By so doing, she also gravely damaged the moral standing of the United States.

The decision of the Board of Governors to award an honorary Law degree to someone who deceived her country and condoned an attempt to legalize torture dishonors both Rutgers and

the law. It is also a slap in the face to the students and their educators.

By putting Condoleezza Rice in the position of talking to graduating students about their accomplishments, their dreams, and their values, we do not merely help her avoid responsibility for her actions. We seem to be saying that both our students and their teachers should ignore history and be indifferent to crimes committed.

The Class of 2014 was 10 or 11 years old when the Iraq war began; it is now being asked by its alma mater to erase a part of its own history. This goes against everything we should be doing as an institution of higher learning.

We urge the Board of Governors to reverse its shocking and indecent decision. We pledge to do everything in our power, between now and Commencement Day, to inform and, yes, educate the Rutgers community about the very recent past that the Board's action attempts to rewrite.

Last Name, First Name, Unit, Department Position

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Akincigil Ayse SSW N/A Associate Professor
Alexander-Floyd Nikol NB-SAS Women's & Gender Studies Associate Professor
Alidou Ousseina NB-SAS AMESALL Associate Professor
Allamand Carole NB-SAS French Associate Professor
Amendola Mary Grace Newark College of Nursing Assistant Professor
Anantharaman Divya Newark Business School Assistant Professor
Angell Beth SSW N/A Associate Professor
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Balakrishnan Radhika NB-SAS Women's & Gender Studies Professor
Baldi Andrea NB-SAS Italian Professor
Balog Katalin Newark Philosophy Associate Professor
Barbarese Joseph Camden English Associate Professor

Barbour Bruce SEBS Agr & Resource Management County Agent
Barkay Tamar SEBS Biochemistry Professor

Barnett Louise NB-SAS American Studies Professor
Batista David RUL Law Librarian II
Battey Daniel GSE Learning and Teaching Associate Professor
Bay Mia NB-SAS History Professor
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Belkin Nicholas SCI Lib Info Science Distinguished Professor
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Bellany Alastair NB-SAS History Associate Professor
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Bernstein Laurie Camden History Associate Professor
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Böröcz József NB-SAS Sociology Professor
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Bronner Stephen NB-SAS Political Science Distinguished Professor
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Burke Luke Camden Chemistry Professor
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