

# Distinguished Achievement Citation

Shirin Siddiqi Tahir-Kheli

Class of 1961

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation, the Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored and privileged to recognize Shirin Siddiqi Tahir-Kehli for her exemplary career as a scholar, diplomat, and champion of women's empowerment.

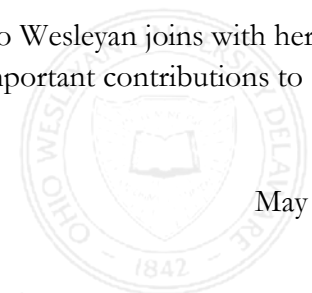
Following her graduation from Ohio Wesleyan, Shirin went on to earn an M.A. and Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania. In her academic career she held positions at Temple University, the Strategic Studies Institute at the U.S. Army War College, the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and the Center of International Studies at Princeton University. She was the founding director of the South Asia Program at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

In 2006 she was tapped by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to serve as the secretary's Senior Advisor for Women's Empowerment; she remained in that capacity until 2009, highlighting the importance of women's empowerment as an element of U.S. foreign policy. She led the secretary's Women Leaders' Working Group, comprising nearly 40 foreign ministers and heads of state and focusing on women's political participation, economic empowerment, education, and justice. She concentrated especially on engaging women in the Muslim world.

In 2005-2006 she served as Secretary of State Rice's Senior Advisor on United Nations reform, engaging the U.N. Secretary-General, the Secretariat, and other member states on reform efforts. Prior to her tenure with the Secretary of State, Shirin served, among other positions, as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Democracy, Human Rights, and International Operations at the National Security Council, and head of the United States delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 2001. She was appointed by President Bush to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and she served on the Presidential Commission on Public Service from 1992 to 1993. From 1982 to 1984 she was a member of the Policy Planning Staff at the United States Department of State.

Currently Shirin, more formally referred to as Ambassador Tahir-Kheli, is a Carnegie Scholar working on a study titled "Diplomacy Without Negotiation: America's Outreach to the Muslim World." She is currently a member of the Council of Foreign Relations.

These are only the highlights of a stellar career spent in service to the country. Ohio Wesleyan joins with her reunion classmates and her husband, Raza and recognizes Shirin's extensive and important contributions to humankind with the presentation of this Distinguished Achievement Citation.



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