



**DOCTOR
WILLIAM D. ADAMS
CLASS 19-67**

Dr. Adams attended the U.S. Army Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg and served in Vietnam as an advisor to a Vietnamese Infantry Unit.

He earned his undergraduate degree in philosophy at Colorado College and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He studied in France as a Fulbright Scholar before beginning his career in higher education with appointments to teach political philosophy at Santa Clara University in California and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He coordinated the Great Works in Western Culture program at Stanford University and served as vice president and Secretary of Wesleyan University. He became president of Bucknell University in 1995 and was president of Colby College from 2000 until 2014.

He has demonstrated a deep understanding of and commitment to the humanities as essential to education and to civic life. In 2014, the President appointed him Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), an independent grant-making institution of the federal government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities.

Dr. Adams has stated that “NEH’s *Dialogues on the Experience of War* grants allow veterans and community members to explore together the experiences of war using humanities texts as the means of deeper understanding. Because veterans account for only seven percent of our country’s population, there is a pressing need for community programs that bring veterans and non-veterans together in conversation.”