

Citation for Ndunge Kiiti '98
Distinguished Alumnae Award
Homecoming 2018

Ndunge Kiiti's story embodies the IMPACT of "empowering connections." Ndunge first came to Houghton College when she connected as a student at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya with her teacher Barbara Arenson. As a Houghton student, her ability to connect "academic mental toughness," athletic prowess and deep Christian character earned her the respect of colleagues and in 2003 induction into the Highlander Hall of Honor.

Since Houghton, Ndunge has spent her life making connections—in the academic world through her positions as Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Global Health in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, as a Professor of International Development in the Department of Intercultural Studies here at Houghton College, and most recently as a Visiting Professor at Cornell University in the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development, and the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. In the world of International Development her skill in making connections is evident in her work in partnership development and communications with Medical Assistance Program International, as a member of the International Review Committee for International AIDS Conferences, and as a faculty coordinator for various field teaching and research opportunities in Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, and Ecuador.

Professor Kiiti has specialized in drawing on her connections to empower others. First, her students—by arranging for their field study of such topics as community health development, agribusiness and female entrepreneurship in various parts of Latin American and Africa; by taking them to professional conferences where they can connect with inspiring speakers, and potential future mentors and internship supervisors; by establishing such ongoing forums as the Center for Faith, Justice, and Global Engagement at Houghton College; and by organizing networking trips to international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, and Bread for the World. She's empowered community development advocates—especially women -- throughout the world, where she has promoted various ventures in micro-finance and entrepreneurship. Her work in linking mobile money technology and entrepreneurship among women in Kenya was recognized in a display in the British Museum.

For your persistent and creative commitment to connecting the academy, the Christian faith, and human flourishing; for connecting students to the "real world" work of community development and for empowering everyone around you in the process, we recognize you today as a Distinguished Alumnus of Houghton College.