



*Christie Hefner*

Class of 1970

Christie Hefner, the longest-serving female CEO of a public company, is a passionate advocate for freedom of expression, equal rights and opportunities for women, and the fight against HIV/AIDS. A year after graduating summa cum laude and phi beta kappa from Brandeis University, Hefner began working at the company her father founded, Playboy Enterprises. When the company got into financial difficulties in 1982, she became president, beginning her long run as the head of the company. She created the Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Awards and established a Freedom of Expression Award at the Sundance Film Festival to honor documentary films that educate the public on issues of social concern. She has received numerous honors, including the Inaugural Champion of Freedom Award from the Anti-Defamation League; the University of Illinois Chicago's Family Business Council Leadership Award; and being named one of the 100 Most Powerful Women in the World by *Forbes* magazine in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Hefner served as project chairman of Chicago's CORE Center, a facility that provides a comprehensive range of outpatient care to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. After leaving Playboy at the beginning of 2009, she began working with the Center for American Progress, a progressive public policy think tank, the Columbia Journalism Review, and the Canyon Ranch wellness company. At New Trier, Hefner was active in the arts, singing in the choir and performing in both musicals and dramas.

