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New York varsity honours India's 'Hugging Saint'Mata Amritanandmayi

From ANI

New York, May 26: The State University of New York (SUNY) has conferred Hindu leader Mata Amritanandamayi with an honorary doctorate degree in humane letters.

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The honour was bestowed on her at a special convocation held at Lippes Concert Hall of the University's Buffalo North Campus by Dr. John B. Simpson, President of the University and Eunice Lewin, Trustee of the State University of New York.

In the University's 164-year history only two other world leaders, including Tibetan spiritual head the Dalai Lama have been awarded this

doctorate.

The SUNY honorary degree recognizes Amma's commitment to expanding educational opportunities and international cooperation as also her extraordinary humanitarian services, said Dunnett.

It is also a recognition of her 'tireless efforts on behalf of global peace, for her commitment to education and for the far reaching impact of her charitable organizations in relieving poverty and human sufferings in India and around the world', said a university release.

"Through this conferral, we pay tribute to the far-reaching contributions of a distinguished educational leader, prominent humanitarian and esteemed spiritual leader," said Dr. Simpson in his address to the gathering.

Others who received honorary doctorates from SUNY this year include MapQuest founder Barry Glick, pioneering AIDS/HIV- researcher Dr. Robert Vince, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Steve Reich.

The State University of New York is one of the largest university systems

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