

**CONTACT INFORMATION:****Fiona Scruggs****Writer & Digital Content Producer****413-644-4968**[fscruggs@simons-rock.edu](mailto:fscruggs@simons-rock.edu)**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Ben Dobson to be Simon's Rock 2022 Commencement Speaker**

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA—Ben Dobson '00, founder and president of Hudson Carbon and Simon's Rock alum, will address the graduates at the 53rd Commencement ceremony of Bard College at Simon's Rock on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. The ceremony will be held in person and will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person.

"I am thrilled that Ben Dobson has accepted our invitation to be this year's Commencement speaker," said John B. Weinstein, Provost and Vice President of Simon's Rock. "Ben's pathway from Simon's Rock to Hudson Carbon, with many important steps and contributions in between, exemplifies the values and benefits of a Simon's Rock education. He draws together so many disciplines and approaches in his innovations. I believe that every graduate will find something in Ben's story that will resonate with them on this milestone day in their lives."

Ben Dobson received his associate of arts degree at Bard College at Simon's Rock and went on to plan, implement, and manage the transition of three thousand acres of conventional farmland in New York's Hudson Valley to a regenerative organic grain and livestock system. In 2018, Ben co-founded Hudson Hemp and is currently a member of the board. As founder and president of [Hudson Carbon](#), Ben facilitates the implementation of regenerative organic food and agro-ecological systems that provide healthy food for people and positive ecological outcomes.

Hudson Carbon is a public benefit corporation dedicated to the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices and systems, and their powerful potential to mitigate climate change, reverse environmental degradation, and rebuild communities across the globe.

Ben lives in Sheffield, Massachusetts with his wife Nalise Dobson and their five children.

[Read more details](#) about the Simon's Rock Commencement activities.

**About Simon's Rock**

[Bard College at Simon's Rock](#) is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon's Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught exclusively in small seminars by supportive, highly trained faculty, who are leading scholars in their fields. The College grants

degrees in more than 35 majors. The Princeton Review's *Best 380 Colleges* rates academics at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton.

[Bard Academy at Simon's Rock](#) is the nation's first two-year boarding and day program designed to prepare 9th and 10th graders to start college early. A student entering Bard Academy as a high school freshman will earn an Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon's Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years. The Academy curriculum is designed and taught by students' future college professors who are leading scholars in their fields.

For more information, visit [simons-rock.edu](http://simons-rock.edu) and [bardacademy.simons-rock.edu](http://bardacademy.simons-rock.edu).

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