

## **About Victoria Dabrowski Schmidt '42**

As we mark the tenth anniversary of the symposium today, we celebrate and remember Victoria Dabrowski Schmidt, Class of 1942, who died at the age of 104 in May. Her leadership, encouragement and generosity over seven decades left a legacy of impact to countless alumnae.

Victoria was perhaps best known for two memorable things. First, working in the administration of former New Jersey Governor Tom Kean, where she helped inaugurate the “New Jersey & You: Perfect Together” tourism campaign that increased visitors to the wonders of the state.

Secondly, Victoria was often honored for her generous donations to our great alumnae association. There is no greater example of her passion for Douglass alumnae than her creation of an endowed fund through the AADC that established the Victoria Dabrowski Schmidt '42 Workplace and Professional Symposium, which has been presented each year since 2016.

Hundreds of alumnae have participated by leading or attending workshops on topics ranging from how to identify career opportunities, to networking, managing finances to transitioning to retirement. She was also a generous supporter of the Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL) at Rutgers.

Victoria always led by example. She received many honors. She was a former AADC President and Board member. She received the AADC's Vanguard Award in 2017 and the AADC Medal in 2020. She was inducted into the AADC Society of Excellence in recognition of her professional achievements in her career spanning fashion, journalism, business, and advertising and public relations -- where she ran her own firm for some 22 years.

Victoria was also the recipient of the March of Dimes Virginia Apgar New Jersey Women of Achievement Award and the 2016 Women of Achievement Award from the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs and Douglass Residential College.

Her wisdom took her far and wide. She was the author of several books about aging and dealing with grief, as well as a novel. Her book, “Aging Smart, Victoria's 100 Secrets to a Happy, Healthy, Long Life,” was published for her 100th. Some of you may also have met Victoria when she delivered a presentation called “Intergenerational Conversations with Douglass Women,” right here on campus. She was also featured in a “TED” Talk.

We will miss our friendship with Victoria, her grace, her humor, her dedication to women and her shining example of a successful woman. Her legacy will help ensure the strength of AADC initiatives and programs for generations to come. Thank you all for being here today. And thank you, Victoria!