



December 11, 2021

College of Arts and Humanities

College of Business and Social Sciences

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

College of Professional Studies



Ericke S. Cage, J.D., LL.M. Interim President

D. Stephen & Diane H. Walker Convocation Center Institute, West Virginia

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY



West Virginia State University was founded under the provisions of the Second Morrill Act of 1890 to provide education to black citizens in agriculture and the mechanical arts. Like many other states at that time, West Virginia maintained a segregated education system. On March 17, 1891, the West Virginia Legislature passed a bill creating the West Virginia Colored Institute to be located in the Kanawha Valley. Federal funds provided \$3,000 for faculty salaries and the West Virginia Legislature appropriated \$10,000 to purchase land and to construct a building. We now celebrate that as the official "Founders Day" of West Virginia State University.

In 1915, the school became known as West Virginia Collegiate Institute and began offering college degrees. Under the leadership of President John W. Davis, academic programs were expanded and new buildings were constructed. In 1927, the Institute received accreditation from the North Central Association and in 1929 it became West Virginia State College.

After the 1954 United States Supreme Court historic decision outlawing school segregation, West Virginia State College became an integrated institution serving a predominately white, adult, commuter student population. At that time, land-grant status was lost due to a decision of the West Virginia Board of Education; West Virginia State College was the only 1890 land-grant institution to lose that status. The College regained land-grant status in 2001, by an act of Congress.

With reinstatement of its 1890 land-grant status, and accompanying federal funding, West Virginia State College strengthened its mission of teaching, research and service to the community. The first graduate degree programs began in fall 2003. With the passage of Senate Bill 448 during the 2004 legislative session, the Institution became West Virginia State University.

From a modest beginning, West Virginia State University has emerged into a multipurpose institution serving a diverse student body. From a small tract of land and one building, the University has developed into a multimillion-dollar education system. What is West Virginia State University?

It is all of us who believe in it – who absent or present, work in it and wish it well. It is an exponent of trust which sweeps aside the petty jealousies of men and all propagandic proposals which would minimize or depreciate personality. It is an institution containing faults and defects which challenge the constructive efforts of students, teachers, officers, and graduates. It is incomplete and desires to remain so, to be in an advantageous position for changing life situations.

It is spirit; it cannot be touched by hand; it is based upon communions between the living and those who though dead yet live in immortality made practical through enlistment in the college program, which of necessity requires eternity for completion. What is the university? You and those graduates ahead of you are the university.

paraphrased from John W. Davis Fifth President, West Virginia State College, 1932





Commencement Ceremony December 11, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Order of Exercises
Commencement Speaker
WVSU Alumni Pledge
The Academic Procession
Master of Arts, Public Administration and Sciences Candidates
College of Arts and Humanities Candidates
College of Business and Social Sciences Candidates
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Candidates
College of Professional Studies Candidates
Academic Honors
The Mace
College Banners
The Star-Spangled Banner
Lift Every Voice And Sing
Alma Mater Back Cove



WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT ORDER OF EXERCISES



PRELUDE
PROCESSIONAL Pomp and Circumstance
MARCHING ORDER Grand Marshal
President and Deans
Platform Party
College Flag Bearers
Faculty and Administrators
Candidates for Degrees
POSTING OF THE COLORS Yellow Jacket Battalion Color Guard United States Army ROTC
NATIONAL ANTHEM
INVOCATION
GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE Ericke S. Cage, J.D., LL.M. Interim President
MUSICAL SELECTION



CONFERRING OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts, Education,
Public Administration and Sciences
Dr. J. Paige Carney Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ericke S. Cage, J.D., LL.M. Interim President
Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences Dr. Robert M. Wallace Dean, College of Arts and Humanities
Dr. J. Paige Carney Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ericke S. Cage, J.D., LL.M. Interim President
The Director of Registration and Records, Roy Simmons, announces the names of the graduates, during the conferring of degrees by Interim President Cage.
REMARKS Ericke S. Cage, J.D., LL.M. Interim President
MUSICAL SELECTION Lift Every Voice and Sing Arlizia James
ALUMNI PLEDGE
ALMA MATER Ivy Hodges
CLOSING REMARKS
BENEDICTION
RECESSIONAL

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AMY SHULER GOODWIN





Amy Shuler Goodwin was elected November 7, 2018, as the first female Mayor of Charleston, West Virginia. Since taking office, Goodwin has prioritized fiscal accountability, transparent and efficient processes, fairness, people-focused solutions, and forward-thinking policies and programming.

Goodwin launched a comprehensive strategy focused on demolition and rehabilitation of dilapidated structures.

In 2019, Goodwin established the Coordinated Addiction Response Effort (CARE) to address the impact of substance use disorder. The CARE Office was expanded to include an equally strong effort to address mental health

and homelessness.

Goodwin prioritized infrastructure improvements--doubling paving on city roads; making widespread improvements to city parks, community centers, and recreational programs; and creating a more accessible city through ADA improvements.

In working toward a more efficient city government, Goodwin enhanced the city's data capabilities by implementing a customer relationship management system.

Goodwin established the first Charleston Youth Council, Charleston LGBTQ Working Group and Charleston Council for Outreach and Empowerment (C-COrE) to engage individuals from diverse backgrounds, cultivate relationships within the community, and offer policy/programming recommendations.

Goodwin has served as the Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Tourism for the State of West Virginia. Goodwin also served as Communications Director for several governors, a congressman, a presidential candidate and former Charleston Mayor, the late G. Kemp Melton.

Goodwin and her husband Booth have two teenage boys—Joe and Sam.

WVSU ALUMNI PLEDGE



To join hands with other alumni in perpetuating the ideals of West Virginia State University, nurturing its growth and promoting its programs, to serve with honor in my chosen profession, and to make myself a symbol of the best traditions of West Virginia State University – this is my commission and my challenge.

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION



The Academic Procession is composed of administrators, honored guests, faculty, graduates and the University Board of Governors. This procession is led by a marshal who seats the graduates, faculty and platform guests. Faculty members wear costumes that had their origin in the Medieval English University system. The costumes were devised to distinguish academic persons from lay persons, since everyone wore robes or gowns to ward off the cold. The recession is in reverse order, with the platform guests leaving the dais first, followed by the faculty and the graduates.

The colors of the academic dress have a significance deeply rooted in the tradition of academic life and are specified by a uniformed code maintained by the American Council on Education. Caps are black and are usually mortar boards with tassels. Doctors of Philosophy wear gold tassels, usually of metallic thread; other degrees wear black or discipline colors.

The bachelor's gown is simple and black with long, pointed sleeves. Master's gowns, also black, are longer than bachelors. Older gowns have sleeves that terminate at the elbow, while those since 1960 have sleeves extended to the wrist. Doctor's gowns are full, with bell-like sleeves. The front is marked by velvet panels, and the sleeves are marked by three velvet bars. While most gowns are black with black velvet, one variation is to replace black velvet with velvet in the discipline color. A second variation is a colored gown, usually of the university's colors.

All hoods specify the level of degree, the discipline studied, and the awarding institution. First, degree level is signified by the size of the hood with bachelor's smallest, master's larger and doctor's quite large and of a different shape. West Virginia State University does not award hoods for bachelors' degrees. The width of the velvet trim also conveys the degree. Secondly, the discipline is indicated by the color of the trim edging the hood to form the throat over the gown. Finally, the color of the hood's lining specifies the awarding institution. The colors are displayed in combinations that are drawn from heraldry.

The colors of the tassels worn by candidates for bachelor's degrees represent the fields of study in which the degrees will be conferred. At West Virginia State University, the following colors of tassels and hoods are used to designate the various degrees:

TASSELS

- Bachelor of Arts White
- Bachelor of Fine Arts Brown
- Bachelor of Science Yellow
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Drab
- Bachelor of Science in Communications Yellow
- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Royal Blue
- Bachelor of Science in Education Light Blue
- Bachelor of Science in Social Work Citron

HOODS

- Master of Arts in Media Studies White
- Master of Arts/Science in Biotechnology Yellow
- Master of Education in Instructional Leadership Light Blue
- Master of Public Administration Peacock Blue
- Master of Science in Computer Science Yellow
- Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration Midnight Royal
- Master of Science in Sport Studies Sage

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of Public Administration
Kaylen Barker **
Richard Conner Dolin *
Ayesha Irfan **
Shayla Leftridge **
Jordan Edward Sharps *

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

Master of Science in Biotechnology Chantz Allen Hopson * Subhiksha Khatiwada *

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Leadership
Eric Charles Burnette *
Chad L. Butcher
Jacob James Harms *
Lawrence D. Moore
Samuel John Neff *
Christopher Thayer
Daniel Allen Thomas *

Master of Education in Instructional

Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration Makala Katilynne Cook Henry Kafi Forson

Amanda Lanay Hunter Michael C. Johnson Alyssa Johnston Gracen Elizabeth Masters Walter Aaron Stroupe Jessica Toney Adam Charles Walters

Samantha Jordan Tulley

Master of Science in Sport Studies
Dakotah Booth
Robert S. Branch, Jr. *
Antonio Lee Brown *
Katherine Elizabeth Bryant *
Scott Delaney Canada *
Cassidy Nicole Cash *

Sheree Nathlia Clayborn *
Neil D. Higgins
Jared Daniel Hunt *
Kyle James McCormick
Heather Ann Mellinger
Anthony Woods Nelson *
Danette Paige Sheley
Atalie Ann Snow *

COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

Bachelor of Arts in English Emily Jocelyn Beane Hanna Edens Hannah Lynn Fields Eric Von York, Jr.*

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies Yassmine AlSaadi Sabriyah Fatimah Shahbandy

Bachelor of Science in Communications
Martin Ahlstrom
Tristan Eric Broughton
Austin S. Gessel
Chase Alan Hastings
Tina Beth Manley
Katie M. Neese

Regents Bachelor of Arts Jacob Ryan Adkins * Frank Agyemang ** Sumer Danielle Cooper Alma Janette Dawson Timothy Rockford Dorsey Whitney Nicole Hanshaw * Emma Marie Gardner Lori Ann Good-Burdette Carreda Gore Tara Jean Jeffers * Ernest W. Jenkins, Jr.* Daetron Anthony Jones Andy F. Martin Allen Conrad McGeehan Kelly Miller ** Kevin Musilli * Trena Marie Nutter

Cassandra D. Petrunyak *
Sarah E. Plants
Brooklyn Pritt
Abbi Samms
Myrna Thomas **
Emily Morgan Thompson
Zaiah Tucker
Michael Allan Wiley, Jr.
Shana Lynn Wood

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts in Economics Ryan Mullins Nathanael A. Parrish Rebecca Lynn Smith

Bachelor of Arts in History
Kathleen Allen **
Rebecca J. Bryant
Katelyn Damron **
Ashley Peggs **

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science India McClanahan ** Antoine K. Thomas

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Yassmine AlSaadi
Makala Cook **
Jennifer J. Duffield
Loretta Fain **
Ashley Fisher **
Bailee Hall
Emily Hoskins
Stephanie Julious **
Miranda D. Lacy
Vikram Narasimhan **
Madison Shaye Tilley

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Luke A. Aliff William Jacob Anderson Kaylie Joyann Atkins * Vernita Monique Calloway * Jason Chance Cavender Cierra Hope Coberly *

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



David Michael Cooke Ryan Layne Eary Meredith Foster ** Jamal Cato Fox *

Angelica Queen Hightower Douglas Allen Hill *

Alexis Nicole Jenkins

Kerry C. Jones

Amanda Grace Keene

Gracie Lynn Kimble * Chad Lavender

Amanda McCleary Michael Tyler Morris Madisyn Mullins

Ryan Mullins

Nathanael A. Parrish Jed Daniel Pettigrew

Cerena E. Reeves Mason James Rice Cory Nathaniel Riley

James V. Rogers

Yitbarek Asfera Sahelu *

Jared Skinner

Rebecca Lynn Smith

Theron Nathaniel Whaples *

Sarah Ann Wilson

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Payten M. Brown
Mariana Delgado **
Brittany Graham **
Haley M. King
William August Porter

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry Robert Dalton Hill

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science Calvin James Hovatter Jarod A. Koon

Justin Phillip Smith Samuel A. Temesgen COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Haley Brester Hayden A. Burke

Chelsea Elizabeth Cordice * MacKenzie Renee Daniels

Nasir Malic Harris

Bradley Michael Hodges *

Emily Hoskins
Keisha M. Johnson
Haley Legg **
Austin Wade Martin
Gracen Masters **
Tyson C. Mitchell
Sade E. Moore

Brett Alexander Murray

Yara Pena *
Alicia Reynolds
Ashton Savage **
Megan Nicole Simmons
Ashley Marie Thaxton *
Latrell Isaiah Warr

Bachelor of Science in Education

Tori B. Chestnut Maggie-Sue N. Dickens Brandi Estep ** Olivia Fleck Alexis Harrison Thresa Herndon Ivy Cheyenne Hodges

Hadlee Ray Amos

Jordan Elizabeth Jones

Noelle E. Joyce

Mallory Danielle Kennedy Catherine Ann Lawson

Zoey Myers Toni Ord

Annie Grace Pauley Ashley Peggs **

Tiffany Peters **

Mary Elizabeth Pomeroy *

Kelsie D. Poore

Christopher Thomas Rock

Kelley D. Rogers

Phillip Ruff ** Shellie Beth Smith Adam S. Snyder Brooklyn Danielle Stiltner Kayla Ann Taylor

Bachelor of Science in Health Science

Donnovan Anthony Campbell, II *

Amanda Hill *

Mariah Michelle Horan Lesley Danyel Putillion *

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Brooke Browning **
Aleena Davis **
Shayna Ellis **
Ronald Hoegen **
Allison Brooke Johnson
Estela Eloisa Jones
Breana K. Paul
Harold Thomas Rogers *
Brittany Sterling

Bachelor of Science in Sport Studies

Chelsea Black

Rachel Elizabeth Chapman *
David Stephen Childers *
Sheree Clayborn **
Nicholas Maxwell Fraley
Alysa Shian Meeks
Jeffrey Brian Powers
Devon Elizabeth Putnam *

Jacob P. Rife Michael Stone Blake Thompson Sydney Brooke White

- * Denotes summer graduate
- ** Denotes 2020 graduate

A name on the program does not assure that final degree requirements have been met.

ACADEMIC HONORS



Cum Laude

Candidates who have attained cumulative grade point averages between 3.25 and 3.49

Magna Cum Laude

Candidates who have attained cumulative grade point averages between 3.50 and 3.74

Summa Cum Laude

Candidates who have attained cumulative grade point averages of 3.75 and above

With Distinction

Candidates, who are graduating with a second bachelor's degree, who have completed at least 30 hours beyond the first degree and have attained a grade point average of 3.5 and above in these additional hours

Graduating Seniors in Honor Societies

To become a member in a University Honor Society, a student must have earned 30 hours toward his/her degree and must have met the society's specific requirements for eligibility.

Congratulations to the seniors listed for your commitment to academic excellence and thank you for the national and international recognition that you bring to West Virginia State University by your membership in these societies.

Alpha Kappa Mu
Junior and Senior
National Honor Society
Dr. Sonya Armstrong, advisor
Payten M. Brown
Yara Pena
Ashton Savage
Samuel A. Temesgen

Alpha Phi Sigma
National Criminal Justice
Honor Society
Dr. Cassandra Whyte, advisor
Dr. Leighann Davidson, advisor
Nasir Harris
Emily Hoskins
Amanda Lanay Hunter

Keisha M. Johnson Gracen Elizabeth Masters Sade E. Moore

Brett Alexander Murray Megan Nicole Simmons

Walter Aaron Stroupe Ashley M. Smith Thaxton

Kayla Tilley

Adam Charles Walters

Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education

Billie Hauser, advisor Hadlee Ray Amos Tori B. Chestnut Jordan Elizabeth Jones Catherine Ann Lawson Zoey Myers Annie Grace Pauley Kelsie D. Poore Christopher Thomas Rock

National Society of Leadership and Success

Shellie Beth Smith

Jalessa Nunez, advisor Dakotah Booth Payten M. Brown Brooke Browning Rebecca J. Bryant Scott Delaney Canada

Donnovan Anthony Campbell, II Rachel Elizabeth Chapman

Jennifer J. Duffield

Loretta Fain

Ashley Fisher Meredith Foster

Emma Marie Gardner

Brittany Graham Nasir Malic Harris

Neil D. Higgins

Amanda Hill

Douglas Allen Hill

Emily Hoskins Jared Daniel Hunt Amanda Lanav Hunter Ayesha Irfan Alexis Nicole Jenkins Keisha M. Johnson Jordan Elizabeth Jones Stephanie Julious Haley M. King Shayla Leftridge Tina Beth Manley Gracen Elizabeth Masters Kyle James McCormick Lawrence D. Moore Katie M. Neese Nathanael A. Parrish Lesley Danyel Putillion Jacob P. Rife Christopher Thomas Rock Philip Ruff Ashton Savage Megan Nicole Simmons Rebecca Lynn Smith Antoine K. Thomas Emily Morgan Thompson Adam Charles Walters

Phi Alpha

National Social Work Honor Society

Lena Lambert, advisor Allison Johnson Breana Paul

Latrell Isaiah Warr

Sarah Ann Wilson

Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society Dr. Tae Jin Park, advisor

Emma M. Gardner

Psi Chi

International Honor Society in Psychology

Dr. Paula McCoy, advisor Yassmine AlSaadi Jennifer J. Duffield Bailee Hall

Miranda Lacy Madison Tilley

THE MACE



The Academic Mace precedes the entire procession. The Grand Marshal carries in his hand this ceremonial staff that is used as a symbol of authority. Its placement and removal from a place of honor signifies the opening and closing of ceremonial sessions. The mace had its origin in the Middle Ages, being used first as a weapon by royal bodyguards to protect their monarchs in processions. Today, the mace is primarily used in academic processions, particularly in English-speaking countries.

The original mace used by West Virginia State University had historical significance in that it was created from a spindle used in the staircase of West Hall, the second building erected on the campus, in 1895. This mace was restored by James Huffman when he was the assistant director of Admissions at the University.

The mace used today was designed by former Art faculty member Dr. Cubert Smith. The circular ring design in its center symbolizes the four colleges of the University: Arts and Humanities, Business and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Professional Studies.

COLLEGE BANNERS



West Virginia State University students will proceed to their respective places behind gonfalons. Gonfalons are flags or banners hung from crosspieces on poles, used since medieval times in the republics of Italy as symbols of state or office. Universities and colleges around the world have adopted gonfalons to increase the ceremonial nature of commencement exercises.

This new tradition associated with commencement symbolizes the accomplishments of the graduates whom we honor on this occasion and the University's commitment to their success.

Four gonfalons of the old gold with black lettering will be carried by two faculty members from each College: the College of Arts and Humanities; the College of Business and Social Sciences; the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and the College of Professional Studies.

Banner Carriers

College of Arts & Humanities Reidun Overbo

Dr. Lan Wang

College of Business and Social Sciences

Clinton Arnold Dr. Frehot Hailou

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Sonya Armstrong Dr. Xiaohong Zhang

College of Professional Studies

Dr. Raphael Mutepa Lena Lambert Grand Marshal

Dr. J. Paige Carney

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Faculty Marshals

Josh Martin

Dr. Ali Ziyati

Stage Marshals

Dr. Leighann Davidson

Dr. Walter Stroupe

Student Marshals

Lindsey Good

Patricia King

Sign Language Interpreter

Cody Cutlip

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER



Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

J. Rosamand Johnson, composer, and James Weldon Johnson, lyrics

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

ALMA MATER

Ernest Wade '30, Martha Spencer '31

There is a place we love so dear—
Its name we'll ever praise and revere
'Tis West Virginia State we love—
Just one more step from there is Heav'n above.

REFRAIN

West Virginia's praise we'll sing—
Lift our voices 'til heavens ring—
As we gaily march along—
We'll sing a song—
For Alma Mater
How we love her
Pride of all our loyal hearts—
From her we will never part—
Thoughts of thee will ne'er be few
Alma Mater we love you.



