



WV
SU

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

December 10, 2022

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.
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 10, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Order of Exercises	2-3
Commencement Speaker	4
WVSU Alumni Pledge.	4
The Academic Procession.	5
Master of Arts, Public Administration and Sciences Candidates	6
College of Arts and Humanities Candidates	6
College of Business and Social Sciences Candidates.	6-7
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Candidates.	7
College of Professional Studies Candidates.	7
Academic Honors	8
The Mace	9
College Banners	9
The Star-Spangled Banner	Back Cover
Lift Every Voice And Sing	Back Cover
Alma Mater	Back Cover



WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
ORDER OF EXERCISES



PRELUDE Classical Selections

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 WVSU Concert Choir
Dr. Scott Woodard, Director

INVOCATION Rev. Aaron Karr
Lead Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS Mark W. Kelley
Chair, West Virginia State University Board of Governors

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER Dr. J. Paige Carney
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Tracy B. McKibben
Founder and CEO, MAC Energy Advisors LLC

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE Ericke S. Cage, J.D., LL.M.
President

MUSICAL SELECTION *My Home Among the Hills* WVSU Concert Choir
Dr. Scott Woodard, Director



CONFERRING OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts, Education,
Public Administration and Sciences. Dr. Robert M. Wallace
Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

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

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences Deborah Williams
Dean, College of Business and Social Sciences

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

*The Director of Registration and Records, Roy Simmons, announces the names of the graduates
during the conferring of degrees by President Cage.*

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

MUSICAL SELECTION *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Phil Washington

ALUMNI PLEDGE Belinda Fuller, MPA
Executive Secretary, WVSU National Alumni Association

ALMA MATER. Bradley Williams

CLOSING REMARKS Dr. J. Paige Carney
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

BENEDICTION Rev. Aaron Karr
Lead Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church

RECESSIONAL Grand March

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER TRACY B. MCKIBBEN



Tracy B. McKibben is an international energy and environmental technology expert with more than 20 years of experience in the energy sector, including more than 15 years focusing on the areas of alternative and renewable energy, green technology, water, infrastructure, and sustainability management. She is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of MAC Energy Advisors LLC, an investment and consulting company that provides integrated energy solutions to help clients with investments and strategic opportunities across a global platform.

McKibben has strategically partnered with multinational corporations and financial institutions on investments and capital structuring in the alternative energy, renewable energy, green technology, water management and energy efficiency sectors. She has extensive transactional experience ranging from mergers and acquisitions, business development, valuation and deal structuring, financial strategy, sustainability metrics, and public policy analysis.

McKibben started her finance career in 2007 at Citigroup Global Markets as Managing Director and Head of Environmental Banking Strategy advising alternative and renewable energy companies and diversified multinational corporations on strategic investments, U.S. and international energy policies and environmental financing alternatives.

McKibben's public sector experience includes working in several senior level positions including at the White House at the National Security Council as Senior Director of European Affairs and Director of European Economic Affairs and EU Relations. She also worked at the U.S. Department of Commerce where her positions included Special Counsel for International Trade and Investments, as well as Director and Executive Secretariat in the Office of the Secretary of Commerce. Prior to her work in the public sector, McKibben practiced law at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld LLP representing and advising clients on commercial and complex litigation matters, as well as corporate and multinational energy clients on strategic investments globally.

She has served on several public, private, and nonprofit company boards. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc., Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc., USAA, the New York Power Authority, and the National Kidney Foundation. She also serves on the Board of Governors of her alma mater West Virginia State University. She is a regular speaker and panelist at various national and international conferences and events on topics such as renewable energy, water/energy nexus, clean technology, energy transition, decarbonization, ESG, and sustainability. She received her bachelor's degree from West Virginia State University and law degree from Harvard Law School.

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 ARTS & HUMANITIES

Master of Arts in Media Studies

Zachary Austin Kelley
Monica Renee' Starks
Angélica Maria Willis

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of Public Administration

Heather N. Casdorff*
Drew Michael Constable
Belinda Kay Fuller
John Thomas Giovengo V
Sonia Manriquez
Jolean J. Tulloch

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

Master of Science in Biotechnology

Abigeal Dolapo Adeyemi
Sai Subhash Mahamkali Venkata
Subramanyam

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Master of Education in Instructional Leadership

Logan Bailey*
Joshua Frank Barnett*
Bureada Nicole Cline
Rachel Marie Hale
Jacob Harms*
Melanie Keffer*
Taylor Danielle Paynter*
Holli Ann Petersen
Marissa D. Schomaker*
Mattie Ann Smith
Robert Michael Thompson*

Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration

Brianna Marie Brandt
Casey Marie Fledderman
Nasir Malic Harris
Jonathan D. Ingram
Austin Wade Martin
Brett Alexander Murray
Louie Thompson Price II*

Master of Science in Sport Studies

Ky'Achia Rakell Joiray Carey*
Drew Landers Chance
Kalia M. Cunningham *
Kerston Paige Kennedy*
Matthew David Lawrence*
Daniel Miller*
Emily Rose Moore*
Jeremiah Joseph Moore*
Cody Ray Morris*
Jeffrey Powers
Cara Lindsay Richards*
Paige Sheridan Scruggs*
Michael Lee Stone
Paige Marie Swisher
Richard Cody Wheeler
Sydney Brooke White

COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

Bachelor of Arts in Art

Sean Solomon Fuller
Haley Kearston Nutter

Bachelor of Arts in English

Zoe M. Long*
Carlo Hans Schmidt*
Rheanna Lee Smith
Haley Nicole Sperry*
Nathan Andrew Ventura

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies

Brandy Marie Freeman

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Performance

Dylan Daniel Carpenter*

Bachelor of Science in Communications

Matthew Rondus Arthur
Nastasia Dean
Paul Jamal Sanchez, Jr.

Regents Bachelor of Arts

Haley Skye Black
Joshua Cochran
Molly Ann Collins
James F. Cooper*
Robin A. Hill
Katlyn McKenzie Jenkins
Anne Marie Landgrebe
Melissa M. Lee*
Zedan Raul Martin
Raheem R. McBride
Oscar Yancey Moore*
Garrett Lee Price
Randalyn Robertson
Lisa Kathleen Shaffer
Michael Aaron Talbott
Jason Clifford Webb*
Clifton Dwayne Wheeler

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Jeremy Edward Graley, Jr.
Dakota Skylar Meadows

Bachelor of Arts in History

Angela G. Erwin
Mallory Lee Falin
Alexander Charles Fish

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Jacob Taylor Hively*
William R. Mucklow

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Ciara Adriane Duncan
Jacia Monét Jeffries
Kerry Kim Matthews III*
Kendall N. Shumaker
Makaila Jordyn West
Madison Workman

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Jihad David Shockley*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Max Michael Arbogast*
Dylan Wayne Ball*
Evan Blackwell*
Allyson Brooke Browning*
Easton Ray Cook
Kimberly L. Cox*
William Echie Dankwah*
Grant Alexander Dickson*
Colston H. Ferguson
Kala Ford*
Jeremy Edward Graley, Jr.
Jillianna K. Gray*
Shelby Elizabeth Harmeyer*
Amanda Wen Holder
Mylan Howard
Sarah Renee Hudnall*
Daniel Morton Hudson II
Robert Glen James*
April Dawn Jett
Bethanny Lynn Johnson
Joseph D'Angelo Julious
Stanley Preston Kinder
Amanda Lee McCleary
Dakota Skylar Meadows
Kody Alan Means
Brandon Melendez
Amy Elizabeth Merrell
Jason James Mullins
Kayla Bren Mullins
Ansh Trijay Narula*
Eric Joseph Oliver
Qundre Isaiah Payton*
David Reed*
Karem Louise Batista Rodrigues
Nicholas James Saranczak
Siera Dawn Sawyers
Dantrell Smith
Brittani N. Watters*

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Samantha Dawn Belcher*
Maria Irfan
Macey Layne LeVasseur
Nathan Paul Lyttle

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Andrew Romy Comer
April Star Husband
Zhifang Xie

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Bernadette Joy Hoffman
Alexis Lynn Scudero

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

Bernadette Joy Hoffman

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Keith O'Neal Artis
Holly Blue Attaway*
Lauren Bailey Coons
Sarah Randy Driggs
Katelyn Jean Hale
Alexis Dawn Harper
Clarence Wayne Lipford, Jr.
Amanda Caroline Mines
Austin R. Pack
Jeffery Parker
Karrienne Marie Rodriguez*
Breanna Nichole Sargent
Kailey Michelle Schott
Caleb Joseph Shepherd
Dakota Wayne Shepherd
Gabrielle Baytay Thompson

Bachelor of Science in Education

Lauren Elizabeth Ball
Arika Cheyenne Cantrell
Chesla Dawn Crowder
Kaitlyn Nicole Edens
Holly Paige Hager
Cloe Lynn Humphreys
Carter Taylor
Austin Anthony Wheatley

Bachelor of Science in Health Science

Julie Lynn Kimball*
Rebecca Ann Linzell
Jayla Alexis Tench
Amber Simone Turner

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Valerie Renee Boggess
Mary Allyson Bosley
Kaitlyn Dawn Dillon
Alexis Dawn Harper
Kaitlyn Nicole Lucas
Shemar Antonio Ray*

Bachelor of Science in Sport Studies

Ingrid Barbosa de Castro
Franciele Cristina Soares Cupertino
Paula Alejandra Murcia Gutiérrez
Jalen Booga Jones
Juliana Fernanda Campos Lima
Cierra Michelle Savin

* Denotes summer 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 Phi Sigma

National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Dr. Cassandra Whyte, advisor

Dr. Leighann Davidson, advisor

Brianna Brandt

Nasir Harris

Amanda Mines

Brett Murray

Caleb Shepherd

Beta Kappa Chi

Scientific Honor Society

Dr. Timothy Ruhnke, advisor

Zhifang Xie

Kappa Delta Pi

International Honor Society in Education

Billie A. Hauser, advisor

Chesla Crowder

Holly Hager

Cloe Humphreys

Katlyn Jenkins

Austin Wheatley

National Society of Leadership and Success

Dr. Christopher Jackson, advisor

Jaleesa Nunez, advisor

Samantha Dawn Belcher

Kalia M. Cunningham

Jillianna K. Gray

Daniel Miller

Emily Rose Moore

Louie Thompson Price II

Haley Nicole Sperry

Phi Alpha

National Social Work Honor Society

Lena Lambert, advisor

Kaitlyn Nicole Lucas

Pi Alpha Alpha

National Public Administration Honorary

Dr. Michael Pennington, advisor

John Giovengo

Sonia Manriquez

Jolean Tulloch

Psi Chi

International Honor Society in Psychology

Dr. Paula McCoy, advisor

Ciara Duncan

Makaila West

WVSU Honors Program

Dr. Timothy Ruhnke, advisor

Haley Nutter

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

Dr. Reidun Overbo
Dr. Lan Wang

College of Business and Social Sciences

Clinton Arnold
Dr. Derek Taylor

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Mohammad Nazari-Sharabian
Dr. Jasmine Porter

College of Professional Studies

Katie Bryant
Jay Canterbury

Grand Marshal

Dr. J. Paige Carney
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 Interpreters

Jasmin Neely
Ashley Turley

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Francis Scott Key

*Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we bailed 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.*



WEST VIRGINIA STATE
UNIVERSITY