



WV SU

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

May 13, 2023

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

May 13, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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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
Josh O’Dell, Director

INVOCATION..... Tony Saunders
Pastor, Bible Believers Fellowship 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 Samuel J. Scroggins
Senior Director, Lazard Global Power, Energy & Infrastructure Group

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

MUSICAL SELECTION *My Home Among the Hills* WVSU Concert Choir
Josh O’Dell, Director



CONFERRING OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts, Education,
Public Administration and Sciences. Dr. Naveed Zaman
Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

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

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

Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences Dr. Kerri Steele
Dean, College of Professional Studies

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

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

*University Registrar, 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*. Kiana Dyess

ALUMNI PLEDGE Dr. Lateef Saffore
President, WVSU National Alumni Association

ALMA MATER. Caitlyn Taylor

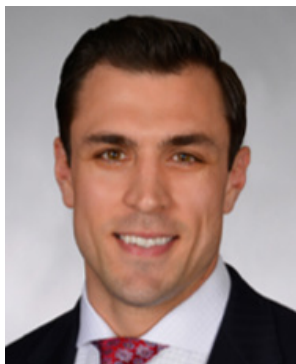
CLOSING REMARKS Dr. J. Paige Carney
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

BENEDICTION Tony Saunders
Pastor, Bible Believers Fellowship Church

RECESSIONAL Grand March

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER SAMUEL J. SCROGGINS



West Virginia State University alum Samuel J. Scroggins is a Senior Director in the Global Power, Energy & Infrastructure Group for Lazard, one of the world's preeminent financial advisory and asset management firms.

Since joining Lazard, Scroggins has focused on advising a number of global power, energy and infrastructure clients and has worked on a variety of assignments in the private and public sectors, with an emphasis on the renewable energy and energy transition sectors.

Most recently, Scroggins co-authored Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy, Levelized Cost of Storage and Levelized Cost of Hydrogen analyses, which compare the costs of energy from various generation technologies and of energy storage technologies for a variety of applications.

Other representative transaction experience includes the following, among others: advisor to energyRe on a potential \$1 billion capital raise (ongoing), advisor to The Related Companies on the potential sale of the Hudson Yards CoGen asset (ongoing), advisor to Balanced Rock Power on a potential capital raise (ongoing), advisor to AB CarVal on the potential sale of 30 distributed solar projects (ongoing), advisor to Enel Green Power North America on the potential sale of a 2,500 MW operating renewable energy portfolio (ongoing), advisor to Energy Capital Partners and Igneo on the potential sale of TerraGen (ongoing), and advisor to Hull Street Energy on the sale of Foundation Solar Partners to Birch Creek Development.

Prior to joining Lazard, Scroggins was an attorney at Latham & Watkins and Foley & Lardner in New York City where he was part of the energy industry teams and transactional and securities practice groups. His practice focused on the areas of mergers and acquisitions, private equity, project finance and general corporate and commercial law, with an emphasis on the renewable energy and energy transition sectors.

Prior to law, Scroggins played professional football for the Detroit Lions.

Scroggins serves on the Board of Visitors of West Virginia State University, the Planning Board for the Village of Malverne, New York, and was recently nominated as an Emerging Leader by the American Wind Energy Association.

Scroggins earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from West Virginia State University and his law degree from the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University.

Scroggins and his wife, Lauren, reside in New York and have three daughters, Sophia, Sarah and Stella.

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 Nursing - Apricot
- 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

Monica Renee' Starks
Brett Allen Ward
Aleeshia Fiaunia Watson
JaMarcus Andreas Williamson, Sr.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of Public Administration

Stefani Kaye Andrews
Emily Grace Bostic
Tyler Wayne Coleman
LaVon Cottemond
Kimberlynn Adele Crawford
April Lynn Evers

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

Master of Science in Biotechnology

Abigeal Dolapo Adeyemi
Dinesh Ghimire
Abdallah Hadimundeen
Graziele Cristina Preterotto
Alicia Guadalupe Talavera Caro

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Master of Education in Instructional Leadership

Shellie Beth Dunlap
Annie Grace Pauley
Breanna Ashley Sowards
Ryan Michael VanMeter

Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration

Grace Margaret Martin
Kasey Lynn Murphy
Jaden Ariel McDaniels

Master of Science in Sport Studies

Kalia Cunningham
James Andrew Dennis Sharp

COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

Bachelor of Arts in Art

Ashlin Jayne Douglas
Stephanie Ann Rose

Bachelor of Arts in English

Emily Ann West

Bachelor of Science in Communications

Josiah Garmon
Vanessa Loraine Pena
Montserrat Alsina Samaniego
Garrett H. Scites
Jakar Nicol Tucker

Regents Bachelor of Arts

Sarah H. Barrett
Richard C. Basford, II
Pamela Denise Bays
Austin R. Campbell
Andrew Thomas Colagrosso
Samuel Austin Cook
Shandi Rena Dotson
Dennis Eric Gregory
Deborah A. Holloway-Thomas
Kaitlyn Brianna Jarrell
Nolan Johnson
Angel Paige Mackey
James Mark McCoy
MacKayla Noel Mena
Misty Marie Price
Kendra Sheets
Zhane Diamond Symns
Carl E. Terrell, Jr.
Phil Walker, Jr.
David Clay Wiley

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Kai Hao (Kevin) Cheng
James F. Ferguson
Mark Daniel Lonsinger
Mackenzie Layne Moss
Dylan Anthony Turner

Bachelor of Arts in History

Alexander Scott Anderson
Nathaniel Connor Bailey
Isaac Garrison Bays

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Evan Todd Conley
Nicholas Ray Halley
Austin Gerencir McNeely
Melanie Zorielvi Miranda

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Alexis Danielle Bragg
Tori Janine Burns
Emer Carrington
Maya Alexandra Haidari
Anysa Celeste Jordan
Laura Marie Lanham
Montserrat Lopez
Devon Jeffrey Pring
Haley Smith

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Jacob Shane Adkins
Jordan Randall Allen
Olivia N. Broom
Andrew Allen Burdette
Logan Scott Burdette
Mason Burdette
Kai Hao (Kevin) Cheng
Karen S. Copeland-Bond
Madison Elise Corbin
Ashley Nicole Crouch
Matthew Steven Dolin
Destiny Nicol Fields
Emma Joyce Fry
Laura Sofia Gil Sanchez
Mason Joseph Hamrick
Trevor James Harrell
Benjamin Jacob Hensley
Daniel Morton Hudson, II
Cade Basil Jarrell
Sarah Elizabeth Johnson
Noah N. Jordan
Samuel Michael Lee
Mark Daniel Lonsinger
Ashley Elizabeth McCray
Kody Alan Means

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



Kaden Scott Meeks
Chase Hunter Napier
Jamie Jared Patton
Kimberly Ann Patton
Dane Matthew Petersen
Nathan Gregory Shepherd
Leigha Marleice Smith
Royce Starr Tanner
Matthew Alden Vance
Joshua Cain Varney
Destiny Fair Weese

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Jourdyn R. Barrow
Foster Clayton Conis
Amartya Das
Myrisha Faith Haney
Karlle Breann Hill
Amanda G. McGlone
Geneva Shauntae Miller
Emily Nicole Moore
Grace Oriema Oti
William Hartley Reid
William Kurtis Yost

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Ajeet Barana
Andrew Romy Comer

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Lucas Deric Givens

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

Danielle Nichole Jviden

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Molly Elizabeth Agnew Martin
Hosen Alkatrib
Kevin Oscar Cheers, II
Ryan Allen Corbin
Chyann Theresa Etheredge
Connor Anthony Fizer

Morgan Fowler
Kimberly Michelle Gill
Jordan Nicole Goble
Jalil Isiah Hines
Tyler Sean Lafferty
Savannah Lindenmuth
Jacob Charles Lucas
Brian Michael Simpson
Chad Anthony Smith
Mark William Strickland
Shelbi Adawn Truman

Bachelor of Science in Education

Jennifer Lee Adams
Colin Lee Boehm
Haleigh Cook
Myra Alexis Hall
Peyton Ryan Hill
Ronald Joseph Humphrey, II
Charles James Hutson-Farley
Joshua Levi Jarrell
Hannah Sizemore Legg
Joshua Michael Lovejoy
Alicia Mae Nutter
Brooklyn Queen
Donovan Jermaine Riddick
Baylee Nicole Rogers
Mark Scites
Brooke Elizabeth Smith
Emily Morgan Thompson
Logan Carlie Withrow
Matthew James Wright

Bachelor of Science in Health Science

Diana Loraine Birchfield
Jyra Ann Clark-Casto
Tiffany Marie Cook
Kailey Reanne Day
Jeanette Williams Morgan
Joi Renae Oden
Liana Reshae Scruggs
A'Mya Janae Walker

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Bethany Kristine Allred
Halie Marie Fields
Jaelyn Nicole Hunt
Danielle Renae Lebsock
Sara Elisabeth Lucas
Brian Keith Mills
Claire Mackenzie Thomas

Bachelor of Science in Social Work

Sarah Grace Arthur
Valerie Renee Boggess
Elizabeth Rose Burke-O'Dell
Noah Andrew Cruz-Bustillo
Justice Madison Hutchison
Lauryn Kate Kennedy
Hannah Grace Miller
Julia Dalaina Minor
Katie Marie Nichols
Karley Alexis Rose
Kelsey Nicole Snyder

Bachelor of Science in Sport Studies

Kori Shenele Marie Brown
Elijah Rashad-Maurice Crockett
John Shamar Fitzpatrick
Henry Dwight Houchins
Alana Bonita Kramer
Camron Lewis
Nicholas Martin Loftis
Abigail Marie Loyd
LaDerrick Neville
Jarius Travon Roberts
Cody Andrew Rogers
Hannah Payton Shriver
William Wesley White

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.

1890 Scholars

Dr. Barbara E. Liedl, advisor

Olivia Broom
William 'Liam' Reid
Destiny Weese

Alpha Kappa Mu

Junior and Senior

National Honor Society

Dr. Alonda L. Wylie, advisor

Brooke Smith

Alpha Phi Sigma

National Criminal Justice

Honor Society

Dr. Leighann Davidson, advisor

Dr. Cassandra Whyte, advisor

Kevin Cheers
Grace Margaret Martin
Jaden Ariel McDaniels
Kasey Lynn Murphy
Mark William Strickland

Beta Kappa Chi

Scientific Honor Society

Dr. Timothy Rubnke, advisor

William Kurtis Yost

Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education

Billie A. Hauser, advisor

Colin Lee Boehm
Hannah Sizemore Legg
Baylee Nicole Rogers
Brooke Elizabeth Smith
Logan Carlie Withrow

National Society of Leadership and Success

Dr. Christopher Jackson, advisor

Jaleesa Nunez, advisor

Alexander Scott Anderson
Diana Loraine Birchfield
Colin Lee Boehm
Emily Grace Bostic
Olivia N. Broom
Logan Scott Burdette
Tori Janine Burns
Kai Hao (Kevin) Cheng
Kalia Cunningham
Ashlin Jayne Douglas
Connor Anthony Fizer
Lucas Deric Givens
Myrisha Faith Haney
Karlie Breann Hill
Jalil Isiah Hines
Daniel Morton Hudson, II
Joshua Levi Jarrell
Noah N. Jordan
Laura Marie Lanham
Grace Margaret Martin
Amanda G. McGlone
Hannah Grace Miller

Julia Dalaina Minor
Emily Nicole Moore
Jeanette Williams Morgan
Baylee Nicole Rogers
Stephanie Ann Rose
James Andrew Dennis Sharp
Hannah Payton Shriver
Brooke Elizabeth Smith
Mark William Strickland
Dylan Anthony Turner
William Kurtis Yost

Phi Alpha

National Social Work Honor Society

Lena Lambert, advisor

Elizabeth Rose Burke-O'Dell
Noah Andrew Cruz-Bustillo
Hannah Grace Miller
Katie Marie Nichols
Karley Alexis Rose
Kelsey Nicole Snyder

Psi Chi

International Honor Society in Psychology

Dr. Paula McCoy, advisor

Alexis Bragg
Maya Haidari
Laura Lanham
Hailey Smith

WVSU Honors Program

Dr. Timothy Rubnke, advisor

Amartya Das
Amanda G. McGlone
Hannah Shriver
William Kurtis Yost

THE MACE



The Academic Mace precedes the entire procession and is carried by the Grand Marshal. The mace is a symbol of authority and 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 ceremonies including commencements.

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, and has since been retired from usage.

The mace being used today was created by Seth Davidson, class of 2005, and Mike Cunningham of Cardinal Creek. The mace was hand turned on a lathe and is made from solid walnut sourced in West Virginia. It is engraved with the names West Virginia State University has been known by since its founding in 1891. The mace is topped with a solid brass medallion that is the great seal of West Virginia State University and features the university's motto *Veritas Lux Mundi*, or "Truth is the Light of the World."

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. Tom Kiddie
Dr. Lan Wang-Hiles

College of Business and Social Sciences

Clinton Arnold
Dr. Ginta Palubinskas

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Jonathan Eya
Dr. Mahinda Ranasinghe

College of Professional Studies

Jay Canterbury
Christy Walker

Grand Marshal

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

Faculty Marshal

Patricia Wilson

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