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COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

December 10, 2016

College of Arts and Humanities

College of Business and Social Sciences

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

College of Professional Studies



Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
President

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

WHAT IS WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE?



What is West Virginia State College? It is all of us who believe in it – who absent or present, work in it and wish it well. Its constituency is the living and dead, and from them the College enjoys an unrestrained loyalty and willing service. 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.

What is West Virginia State College? 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 College? You and those graduates ahead of you are the College.

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

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 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 West Virginia Collegiate Institute 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.



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

December 10, 2016 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 West Virginia State University Concert Choir
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford

INVOCATION Paul A. Dunn
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Charleston

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS William Lipscomb
Vice Chair, West Virginia State University Board of Governors

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS The Honorable Joe Manchin III
United States Senate

CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREE The Honorable Joe Manchin III
United States Senate

MUSICAL SELECTION *My Home Among the Hills* WVSU Concert Choir
Dr. Dirk Johnson, Director
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford



CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Sciences Dr. Robert Wallace
Interim Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

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

Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

*The Director of Registration and Records, Ms. Donna L. Hunter, announces the names of the graduates,
during the conferring of degrees by President Jenkins.*

REMARKS Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

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

ALMA MATER Roberta Arthur
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford

CLOSING REMARKS Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

BENEDICTION Paul A. Dunn
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Charleston

RECESSIONAL Grand March

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER JOE MANCHIN III

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., was sworn into the United States Senate on Nov. 15, 2010, to fill the seat left vacant by the late Sen. Robert C. Byrd. Sen. Manchin considers serving as West Virginia's Senator an honor and a privilege.

Born and raised in the small coal mining town of Farmington, W.Va., Sen. Manchin grew up learning the values that all West Virginians share – family, common sense, fairness and hard work. As a small businessman, he learned firsthand from his grandfather, Papa Joe, who was an Italian immigrant and the town grocer, the importance of serving the public.

As a young man, his grandmother, Mama Kay, inspired Sen. Manchin's belief in public service through her compassion and desire to help those less fortunate. More than anything, it is his family and the values he learned growing up among the hardworking men and women of West Virginia that define who Sen. Manchin is and the public servant he strives to be.

From his days as a state legislator to his six years as governor to his current role, Sen. Manchin has always been committed to his philosophy of "retail government" – in other words, connecting with all of his constituents and making service to them his top priority.

He began his tenure as West Virginia's 34th governor in January 2005. Then-Governor Manchin approved millions of dollars in tax relief for West Virginia's citizens and businesses, fixed the state's workers' compensation system, established the first comprehensive teacher pay package in more than 15 years and dramatically decreased the state's debt. In six years, more than \$13 billion in business investments were made, and West Virginia was often cited nationally for its strong fiscal management.

During his term as governor, he worked closely with Republicans and Democrats to cut taxes, reduce regulations, attract record investments, create new jobs and expand vital social services for seniors and the poor, all while leaving the state with budget surpluses every year.

HONORARY DOCTORATE

Honorary degrees at West Virginia State University are conferred upon distinguished alumni and other individuals who have achieved prominence in education, government, business and other professions.

Joe Manchin III
Honorary Doctorate of Public Service
United States Senate

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 are used to designate the various degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts - White
- 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 Recreation Service - Yellow
- Bachelor of Science in Social Work - Citron
- Master of Arts in Media Studies - White
- Master of Arts/Science in Biotechnology - Yellow

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Mickey Z. King-Fowler
Alejandro de Jesus Ramirez-Garcia
Iniyavan Pushpalingam *
Krittika Vilas Tonapi *

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ART

Jenna Rachael Criner
Elexus Nicole Dennis *
Heather Fay Gibson
Hannah Ruth Gilpen
Vaughn Elisabet Gold
Emily Rose Kines
Christopher Anthony Sayre

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Kasey Lynn Hickman

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Brian Charles Ashton
Thomas Wesley Oliver, II

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS

John William Cantees
Forrest Todd Carter
Sarra Morgan Griffis
Andrew Jeffrey Hudnall
Aaron Joseph Lynch-Kelley
Kayla Vivian Lynch *
Trevor Joseph Nelson
Earon L. Payton, II

Jason Paul Robinson
Christopher Ryan Savors
Jesse William Skidmore
William Maxwell Wallace
Justin Warren Antonio Wright

REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Debbie H. Byrd
Craig Allen Calhoun *
Judith Lynn Canterbury
Brentley Allen Cobb *
Kayla Jo Cosgrove
Gregory Scott Damron
Leticia Marie d'Arms
Ashli Shane Davis *
Thomas Elwood Davis, II *
Michael Roy Dorsey
Kevonté D. Edwards
George Michael Farris
Justin Matthew Fisher
Johnnie Adonis Gavin
Valerie Denise Halstead *
Alexis Deneika Hill *
Stephanie Beth Kesler *
Hannah Leigh King
Adrener Julia Lawton *
Katedra Amella McCoy *
MaKayla McLemore
Jennifer Gayle McVey *
William M. Merritt
Melyssa Hope Savage *
Sherry Gail Scott
David Lee Shaffer
Whitney Elizabeth Simmons
Rosetta Anne Smith
Marini Pastorius Tabrard *
John Edward Tyler
Steven Bradley Williams *
Stephen Ernest Wing
Asfaw Markos Zerihun *

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Angela Rae Apgar
Kamen Tyler Booth
Edison D. Casto
Casey Shayne Criner
Joshua James Dearien
Mohamed Ahmed Eissa
Christopher David Emmons
Whittney Gayle Farrell
Katelynn Danielle Grass
Angel Ann Hall
John Wesley Handley
Priscilla Lynn Johnson
Dustin Hunter Kincaid
Joshua Michael Knox
Joyce Darlene Rasmussen
Matthew Caleb Rogers
Kaitlin Sue Sada *
Sierra Brook Sheltz
Makenzie Brooke Sigmon
Megan Blair Sparks *
Matthew Christopher Spencer
Christopher James Welty
Ronald Dale Whaley, Jr.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS

Eunique Corea Allen
Edison D. Casto
Nathan Jennings Davis
Theodore Chapman Kester, IV
Mmotsa Maurice Makhene, Jr.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Zachary Scott Anderson
KayLee Jo Crowder
Stephen Ryan Jones *
Rocky Sebastian Mendez

* August Graduates.

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

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Victoria Amanda Boling
Vincent Michael Caprio
Elizabeth Anne-Marie Chapman
Mattie Latrice Duncan
Briana C. Edwards
Kara Marie Flynn
Laura Beth Harper
Harley Ann Ledsome
William Lodge
Joshua Paul Means
Susan Kathleen Oxley
Megan Alyse Skaggs

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

Zachary Joseph Messenger

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Nasrin Chbarek
Julie Marie Ferrell
Ashley Denise Moore
Chelsea Dyan Perdue
Tabatha Mae Slater
Zachary Austin Vickers

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Tyrone Bing Hairston
Stephanie LaDale Strong Holmes *

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Alemayehu Feleke Bekele
Caleb Tyler Briles
Jolyssa Annisa Morris

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Kassie L. Cook
Kaitlyn Anne-Marie Criner
Jason D. Edens, II
Christina Tyler Farmer
Samantha Dawn Feazell
Shay Eric Huffman
Mark Lewis Kell, Jr.
Joshua Mark Kiser
Zachary Wilson Peal
Cassie Marie Province
Steven Kenton Reed

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Ryan Michael Baldwin
Laura Jean Berga
Matthew Douglas Buckner
Haley Brooke Byrd
Crissy Dawn Cantley
Jordan Todd Chevalier
Tammy Ella Clay-Wills
Jacki Ránae Collins
Allison Taylor Cooper
Courtney Renea Cremeans
Jenna Rachael Criner
Haley Alexa Harrison
Jack Arthur Hudson
Jacqueline Lorain Lockard
Kami Jo Lucas
Jacee Logan Markle
Chelsey Morgan Martin
Tracy Linnett Miller
Keely Nicole Patton
Kaycee Lynn Pauley-Gangwer
Chelsea Alexis Shamblin

Rachael Ellen Sherman-White
Bethany Nicole Thomas
Kathryn Joann West

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Rheana Nicole Auvil
Eric Thomas Roberts
Trevor Anthony Veltri

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Katherine M. Chambers *
Ciera Samantha Kinder *
Ercle Joshua Maynard
Laura Ann Jones McGuire
Michael-Eli Uriah Smith

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS STUDIES

Corinthian Lamar Carson
Stephen Bryant Dalton
Kyle Thomas Garretson
Thomas Shane Helton
Danette Paige Layton
Trenton Michael Porter
Christina Rae Smith *

* August Graduates.

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 Delta Mu

National Honor Society in Social Work

Professor Rita Brown, advisor

Laura Ann Jones McGuire

Alpha Kappa Mu

Junior and Senior National Honor Society

Dr. Sonya Armstrong, advisor

Whittney Gayle Farrell

Haley Alexa Harrison

Earon L. Payton, II

Alpha Phi Sigma

National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Dr. Cassandra B. Whyte, advisor

Kassie L. Cook

Kaitlyn Anne-Marie Criner

Shay Eric Huffman

Zachary Wilson Peal

Alpha Psi Omega

Theatre Honor Society

Professor Susan Marrash-Minnerly, advisor

Matthew Ryan Skeen

Kappa Delta Pi

International Honor Society in Education

Professor Barbara Korn, advisor

Matthew Douglas Buckner

Haley Brooke Byrd

Crissy Dawn Cantley

Tammy Ella Clay-Wills

Jacki Ranae Collins

Allison Taylor Cooper

Haley Alexa Harrison

Jacqueline Lorain Lockard

Kami Jo Lucas

Rachael Sherman White

Pinnacle Honor Society

National Honor Society for Non-Traditional Students

Professor Kellie Toledo, advisor

Chrissy Dawn Cantley

Christopher David Emmons

John Wesley Handley

Earon L. Payton, II

Psi Chi

International Honor Society in Psychology

Dr. Paula McCoy, advisor

Briana C. Edwards

Kara Marie Flynn

Laura Beth Harper

Joshua Paul Means

Sigma Tau Delta

International English Honor Society

Dr. Anne McConnell, advisor

Kasey Lynn Hickman

The Honors Program

Dr. Ginta Palubinskas, advisor

Joshua Paul Means

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

Arts and Humanities

Asst. Prof. Josh Martin
Assoc. Prof. Tom Kiddie

Business Administration and Social Sciences

Assoc. Prof. Frehot Hailou
Assoc. Prof. Ginta Palubinskas

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Assoc. Prof. Linwei Niu
Asst. Prof. Mohammad Bhuiyan

Professional Studies

Instructor Matthew Bradley
Instructor Leighann Davidson

Grand Marshal

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya

Faculty Marshals

Asst. Prof. Matt Carroll
Assoc. Prof. Patricia Wilson

Stage Marshals

Prof. Gail Mosby
Prof. Walter Stroupe

Student Marshals

Assoc. Prof. Patricia King
Assoc. Prof. Katie McDilda

Sign Language Interpreters

Ashley Cobb
Melanie Wilkerson

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Francis Scott Key

*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?*

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.*

*We'll love her more as days go by,
And send her praises to the sky;
To place her over all the rest,
And keep her e'er the dearest and the best.*

*Shadowed 'neath a deep blue sky;
Is STATE for whom we'll live and we'll die—
Arise! O men of God and sing;
We're loyal, and to her we'll always cling.*



WEST VIRGINIA STATE
UNIVERSITY