



WV SU

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

December 8, 2018

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 8, 2018 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
- Flags of the Nations
- 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 Dr. Kyle Key
Pastor, Teays Valley Presbyterian Church

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS William W. Lipscomb
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 Tera Salango
Circuit Judge, Kanawha County

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 Public Administration and 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. Naveed Zaman
Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

*The Interim Director of Registration and Records, Ms. Traci West-McCombs, announces the names of the graduates,
during the conferring of degrees by President Jenkins.*

U.S. ARMY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY LTC Joshua Germann
Military Science Department

REMARKS Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President

ALUMNI PLEDGE Gregory T. Wilson
Second Vice President, WVSU National Alumni Association

ALMA MATER Natalie Armstrong
Piano Accompaniment by Associate Professor Brenda Vanderford

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

BENEDICTION Dr. Kyle Key
Pastor, Teays Valley Presbyterian Church

RECESSIONAL Grand March

Please remain seated while the graduates recess.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER JUDGE TERA SALANGO



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Judge Tera Salango brings a passion to her work in the law, as well as over 15 years of courtroom experience. Her interest in the law goes back to 1993, when she was 16 years old and her older brother was murdered. As she watched the case be tried twice, her desire to work in the justice system grew.

Salango is a native of Nitro, W.Va. She studied criminal justice at West Virginia State University and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree, earning the highest grade-point average in her major of criminal justice.

In 2003, Salango graduated in the top 20 percent of her class from West Virginia University College of Law. Salango was a member of the prestigious Order of the Barristers, and a finalist in the WVU Mock Trial Competition. She also received the Best Brief Award for Moot Court.

Upon graduation, Salango worked for the law firm of Spilman, Thomas & Battle where she focused primarily on defense litigation. In 2005, she joined the Kanawha County Prosecuting Attorney's Office where she spent over a decade handling a wide range of cases including violent felonies, misdemeanors and juvenile matters.

In late 2016, Salango joined her husband's civil litigation law firm, Preston and Salango, where she handled a wide range of civil cases.

In August 2018, Judge Salango received the Lawyers and Leaders Award from West Virginia University College of Law and West Virginia Executive Magazine recognizing her distinguished legal career. On November 6, 2018, she was elected as the newest Circuit Court Judge in Kanawha County.

Salango lives in Charleston with her husband, Ben, and two sons.

U.S. ARMY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



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During the commencement service, two members of the West Virginia State University Reserve Officers' Training Corps. (ROTC) program will be commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants. West Virginia State's ROTC Program has commissioned over 900 officers into the United States Army. Fifteen of these officers have achieved the General Officer ranks. Cadet Dalton Masters is graduating with a master's degree in criminal justice administration and Cadet Aaron Tompkins is graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

WVSU ALUMNI PLEDGE



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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 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 Recreation Service - Yellow
- Bachelor of Science in Social Work - Citron
- 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 Criminal Justice Administration - Midnight Royal

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Kathy Joyce Anderson*
Rondalyn Kristia English*
Tacy Malena Wright

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Tolulope Abodunrin Akinmoju
Joshua Thomas Haynes
Tawna Shanice Heath
Abha Maskey*
Nirwan Tandukar

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Garrett Arthur Burdette*
Allison Taylor Cooper*
Stephenie Clara Haynes*
Sheran K. Helmick*
Samantha Jo Holcomb*
Matthew David Kinnick*
Sarah Marie Krause
Davin Shea Miller*
Angela Nicole Nichols*
Tyler Neil Ramsey*
Victoria Marie Ramsey*
Casie Elizabeth Rogers
Cheryl Dawn Salisbury*
Megan Taylor Shaffer*
Cathy Lynn Thomas*
Brittney Reney Vaughan*
Dustin Allen Vaughan*

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

Talia Maria Divita
Amy Hinzman*
Betsy Sue Motto
Christopher Aaron Walker Akers*
Jedidiah Drew Walls*

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ART

Brooks Harrison Gillenwater
Rachel L. Long
Jessica Codell McClanahan
Ashley Anna Pauley

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Robyn Nadine Bird
Holly Elizabeth Dunlap
Bambi Latessa Hayes
Aaron Travis Simms

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Noah Brownlee
Kristen D. Day
Evan Scott Dupree
Alisha Dawn Jarrett
William Lucas Michael
Earon L. Payton, II*
Donald Ray Selbe, III
Spencer H. Sharp
Colton Daniel Thomas

REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Marty Shane Adkins*
Morgan Nicole Ashworth
Joshua Frank Barnett
Alexander William Bobinger*
John Andrew Cable
Jessica Calloway Canty
Kaylyn Renae Cook
Seth Andrew Cowan*
Jessica Brooke Estrathers*
Robert Charles Flinn*

Misty L. Gartin
Cedric Alan Greene*
Stephanie Dawn Harper
Autumn Leah Iannamorelli*
Carol Renee Johnson-Cyrus
Mary Melissa Lazo*
Brittany Esta Martens*
Jesse Evan McComas
Chadwick Lee Money Penny
Jaren Marshall Painter
Erica Michelle Pates*
Monica Renee' Starks
Matthew Dirk Stemple*
Barry Elliot Stricklen*
Hunter Nye Sumpter
Melissa Leeann Thomas*
Haley Lynn Walker
Claire Elizabeth White*

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS OF ECONOMICS

Brent A. Bauer
Cody Allen Carver*
Whitney Nicole Halstead
Jennifer Katherine Long
Aaron Cedric Thompkins, IV

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Kenneth Christopher Dodd
Tara Marie Drake
Ashley Anna Pauley
Jacob Tyler Paxton*
Chad Michael Proctor*

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

James D. Byrd
Caleb Scott Maxwell*
Jeremy Jarrett Shanklin

* Denotes August 2018 graduate

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

Amanda Marie Bowman
Sapphire Eileen McNeely
Ashley Brooke Morris
Whitney Ann Stilgenbauer
Cody Allen Stowers

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

Tammy Reneá Letart
LaShea Ashley Strader*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Kayla Michelle Addison
Nathan Wayne Bess
Dionta Thomas Brown
Doris Jean Cable
Brandi Rachelle Carpenter
Cody Allen Carver*
Jacob Kent Day
Kelsey Lynn Dunbar
Matthew Thomas Epling
Whitney Nicole Halstead
John Mark Hunter
Noah Peter Karst*
Jennifer Katherine Long
Steven Thomas McComas
William Lucas Michael
James Brandon Moore
Austin Ray Owen*
Joshua Kyle Oxley
Lindsey Nicole Parsons
Erik Lane Pauley
Wendy Louise Roller
Jacob Taylor Seen
Tiffany Roxanne Stanley
Joshua Edward Stapler

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Edwina Na-Jama Barnett
Matthew Allen Blackburn
Chelsie Michelle Chapman
Jakob Kade Harrison
Zacchaeus Thatcher Lucas
Franklin Eugene Lyons

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Francine Leigh Anthony
Abigail Leshae Gibbs
Charles Jennings Haight, III*
Matthew Cullen Keiffer
John Robert Kessinger, III*
Stephen Paul Workman, II

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Cory Robert Jeffers
Armenta J. Williams

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Tyler Scott Americo
Travis Louis Bryant
Joshua Mark Butcher
Kenneth Christopher Dodd
Jacob Tristan Dye
Sierra Dawn Easton
Elizabeth Marie Eddy
Billi Madison Elmore
Kelli Mackenzy Elmore
Sali A. Ghoul
Levi Jackson Hanna
Angela Kay Leadmon*
Arthur Cortez Massenburg
Dalton Ronald Masters
Ashley Brooke Morris
Destiny Lynn Smith

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Amanda Juanita Barbagallo
Katelyn Suzanne Barker
Rebecca Dawn Bishop
Alyssa Brooke Bonham
Courtney Dell Lee Cartmill
Allyson Jean Funk
Clarissa Faye High
Darrell James Hively
Emily Erin Holstine
Ashley Danielle Javins
Nicole Marie Jenny*
Bretta Joe Kuhn
Summer Rachelle McDonald
Erika Danielle Mullins
Benjamin Clarke Oxley
Nathaniel Gene Patterson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Caitlin Faith Fertig
Ashley Dawn Hess

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Nicholas Michael Cogar
Patricia Dawn Crockett*
Tracie Iashia Dennard
Brent Lee Rhodes
Destiny Chantal Roberts
Diamond Destiny Williams
Malik Shabazz Witten

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS STUDIES

Hunter Jordan Bradley
David Dylan Lester
Kenneth Thomas Matthews*
Mallory Hope Rennard
Caleb Jordan Starkey
Jay Patrick Terry*
Ryan A. Thayer
Davon Tyson

* Denotes August 2018 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 Delta Mu

National Honor Society in Social Work

Professor Rita Brown, advisor

Brent Lee Rhodes

Patricia Crockett

Alpha Kappa Mu

Junior and Senior National Honor Society

Dr. Sonya Armstrong, advisor

Brent A. Bauer

Joshua Mark Butcher

Destiny Lynn Smith

Alpha Phi Sigma

National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Dr. Cassandra Whyte, advisor

Christopher Aaron Walker Akers

Tyler Scott Americo

Joshua Mark Butcher

Talia Maria Divita

Kenneth Christopher Dodd

Kelli Mackenzy Elmore

Sali A. Ghoul

Dalton Ronald Masters

Destiny Lynn Smith

Delta Mu Delta

International Honor Society in Business

Dr. Michael D. Lewis, advisor

Dr. Alan Tillquist, advisor

Brunetta Gamble-Dillard, advisor

Brett R. Bauer

Whitney Nicole Halstead

Jennifer Kathrine Long

Kappa Delta Pi

International Honor Society in Education

Professor Barbara Korn, advisor

Amanda Juanita Barbagallo

Katelyn Suzanne Barker

Rebecca Dawn Bishop

Allyson Jean Funk

Ashley Danielle Javins

Bretta Joe Kuhn

Summer Rachelle McDonald

Erika Danielle Mullins

Omicron Delta Epsilon

International Honor Society in Economics

Omicron Delta Epsilon

Dr. Frehot Hailou, advisor

Jennifer Katherine Long

Pi Sigma Alpha

National Political Science Honor Society

Dr. Ginta Palubinskas, advisor

James D. Byrd

Pinnacle National Honor Society

for Non-Traditional Students

Kellie Toledo, advisor

Tammy Renea Letart

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

Dr. Ali Ziyati

Dr. Reidun Øvrebo

Business Administration and Social Sciences

Dr. Frehot Hailou

Dr. Ginta Palubinskas

Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Mike Fultz

Dr. Upali Karunathilake

Professional Studies

Instructor Yvonne Lee

Asst. Prof. Jay Canterbury

Grand Marshal

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya

Faculty Marshals

Asst. Prof. Katie McDilda

Assoc. Prof. Patricia Wilson

Stage Marshals

Asst. Prof. Leighann Davidson

Dr. Walter Stroupe

Student Marshals

Assoc. Prof. Debra Anderson-Conliffe

Assoc. Prof. Patricia King

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