



WV
SU
COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
May 13, 2020

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

Virtual Commencement Celebration

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

May 13, 2020 3:00 p.m.

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WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE..... Pomp and Circumstance

NATIONAL ANTHEM..... Pre-recorded

INVOCATION..... Dr. Robert Wallace

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKER..... Dr. R. Charles Byers
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

STUDENT ADDRESS Ms. Colleen Miller
President, WVSU Student Government Association

CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts, Public Administration and Sciences..... Dr. J. Paige Carney
Dean, College of Professional Studies

Dr. R. Charles Byers
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President



Candidates for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Fine Arts and SciencesDr. Robert Wallace
 Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

Dr. R. Charles Byers
 Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
 President

*The Director of Registration and Records, Mr. Ryan Kendrick, announces the names of the graduates
 during the conferring of degrees by President Jenkins.*

REMARKS Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
 President

REMARKS FROM THE WVSU
 NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Dr. Lateef Y. Saffore
 President, WVSU National Alumni Association

CLOSING REMARKS Dr. R. Charles Byers
 Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

RECESSIONAL Alma Mater

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES *MASTER OF ARTS IN MEDIA STUDIES*

Ikram Benaicha
Matthew Ryan Skeen

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES *MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION*

Kaylen Marie Barker
Jordan Lavender Barnhart
Brittney Brooke Deveaux
Megan A. Diehl
Cedric Alan Greene
Ayesha Irfan
Shayla Anngenetete Leftridge
Raynalle Angela Rouse
McKenzie Morgan Royce
Adele Elizabeth Thumm
Carrie Alicia Watters

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS *MASTER OF ARTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY*

John Chukwunonso Ojeogwu

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Mosope Fatih Abanikannda
Menuka Bhandari
Bikash Kumar Deo
Marleny Garcia-Lozano
Sandhya Gautam
Yadira Pena-Garcia
Bhagarathi Shahi

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES *MASTER OF EDUCATION IN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP*

Kandace M. Basham Ansah
Courtney Danielle Bess
William J. Britton

Leslie Anne Burford
Michelle Renee Ferrell
Sara Lynn Hampton
Leslee Ann Lusk
Gabrielle Anne Rhodes
Jacob Matthew Ruddle
Kayla Leigh-Ann Slater
Shawn Michael Wheeler

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES *BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ART*

Mai Moheyelden Elsaeyd
Rebekah Joy Neidlinger

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Annabeth Rachel Anderson
Alyssa Noel Ballard
Edeunda Adele Benson
Natale Ruth Cogar
Aaron Nathaniel Deskins
Eamon Patrick Hardiman
Bambi Latessa Hayes
Zoe Marie Long
Noelle Grace Robinson

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Jacob Isaiah Mclaughlin
Colleen Elizabeth Miller
Sabriyah Fatimah Shahbandy

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Kelton James George

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN VOCAL PERFORMANCE

Cedrick Lee Farmer

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS

Briana Sahara Davis
Benjamin Eugene Green Jr.
Zachary Austin Kelley
Cori James Landers

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



Vivian Lee
Keith Dale Martin
Ryan Lee Nicholson
Drew M. Petroff
Chelsea Renee Simms
Jagur Walton-Riley Smith
Alexxia Danielle Snyder
Christian Jared White
John Darwin Williams
Erica Jean Workman

REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Frank Agyemang
Aaron Trent Ball
Melinda Joyce Christy
Paula K. Dean
Tabitha Lee Ellis
Loren Haley Gibson
James A. Hunt
Cooksey P. Hunter IV
Bradley Richard Jarrett
Cherlyn Jernigan
Alexandra May King
Kelly Nova Miller
Sherry Tenise Minter-Elliott
Chasity Michelle Moore
James Roland Smith
Kaitlin Snowden
Trista Miranda Stewart
Amy K. Stotts
Ashley Ellen Stricklen
Shellie D. Terry
Myrna Elaine Thomas
Jerri Ann Viars
Charity Welch
Heather Layne Williamson
Jason Kramer Wilson
Christy Durand Winn
Shana L. Wood

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES *BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS*

Stephen Alexander Gilliam
Chase Campbell Henderson

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Gavin Andrew Applegate
Alexander Bo Berry
Zachary John Crouch
Katelyn Marie Damron
Jacob Edward Given
Aaron Ray Lewis
Alana Melika Mickey
Justin Michael Ray
Zane Edward Samples
Jessica Renee Shultz

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Tristan Lloyd Bibbee
Jacob Alfred Guetzloff
Ethan Baylee Lauchart
Ryan Andrew McCoy
Taja Vee Price

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Haylie Ann Barker
Julie Nicole Bishop
Makala Katilynne Cook
Austin Scott Davis
Ashley Nicole Fisher
Renee Victoria Fisher
Krystal Vernelle Ford
Kortni Brooke Foster
Karen G. Giron
Kierstin Brooke Hensley
Stephanie Paige Julious
Vikram Srinivasan Narasimhan
Sydney Elizabeth Ricket
Amanda Jo Spencer
Jayla Marie Thompson

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

Aieshia Yvonne Woodson-Boggs

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATION

Craig Lee Boggess

Devon Chase Bradshaw

Madison Paige Cottrill

Emily Elizabeth Covert

Kenneth Mckinstry Daniels

Jacob Riley Fisher

Joshua David Fisher

Stephanie Jean Fleshman

Meredith Anne Foster

Zachary Nathaniel Fraley

Alyssa Taryn Frame

Cynthia Winn Gay

Rebecca L. Graley

Jason Hankins

Jacob Dale Hunt

Christopher D. Jordan

Cody Allen Lawhon

Jasmine Ayana Matthews

Hayden Michael Mccarty

Cameron Sean Moore

Stephen Tyler Moss

Isaiah C. Noel

Alex Ryan Osburn

Linsey A. Reynolds

Kalik Saivon Ross

Brooke Lea Sammons

Nathaniel Logan Selbe

Andrew David Stone

Terek Javon Sullivan

Cynthia Elaine Totten

Yivan Danindu Wickramasinghe

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Christian Lee Cook

Mariana Delgado

Ziad Christian Ghareeb

Brittany Dawn Graham

Hannah Elizabeth Mazon

Christopher Brandon McElhaney

Joshua Paul Ricket

Shyann Alexis Stewart

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY

Oddai Esam Said Gharib

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

John R. DeHart

Christian B. Swain

Komala Rukhmini Thondapi

Shaka Malik Wilkerson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS

Emily Katherine Fowler

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Henry Nana Kofi Abeka Forson

Tamarah Shae Back

Bobby Lee Bailey Jr.

Collin Ryan Barker

Dakota Shawn Bragg

Ja'Ron Malik Butler

Kylee Faith Casto

Miranda M. Dixon

Tyson Edwards

Lisa Renee' Fitzwater

Corrie Dashaun Guinn

James Jairus Hagins

Allison Michelle Harris

David DeWayne Hudson

Lucas Ray Lett

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRING OF DEGREES



Jedidiah David Lyle
Brandon Martinez
Sierra Taylor Rabel
Christopher Benton Ruppenthal
Garrett Reid Safford
Travis D. Slack
Ashley Nichole Smarr
Augustus Lewis Stone
Kayla Christine Tilley
Chad M. Watson
Janel Beth Williamson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Jessica Lae Brumfield
Colette Stoke Burgess
Zachary Bryce Casto
Katelyn Elizabeth Cottrill
Bethany Lynn Davis
Jessica Danielle Good
Jacob James Harms
Allison Paige Harold
Michael E. Hughes
Sidney L. Johnson
Rianna Jean Kern
Hannah Rose Lane
Tiffany Robin Laurens Peters
Erin Jean Manahan
Haley Ann Minsker
Zachary Dwight Null
Hope Danielle Painter
Hailey Nicole Ramsey
Jamie Lea Ransbottom
Autum Marie Reed
Kari Elisabeth Risher
Kelsey Rae-Ann Smith
Deja Lauren Smoot

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE

Cassidy Nicole Cash
Sharayah J. Jeffries
Lavina M. Knipp
Hope Nichole Wisecup

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Tracy Marie Adkins
Embrey A. Ballard
Caitlyn Cheyenne Barker
Marissa Dawn Barker
Mary Allyson Bosley
Brooke Ashley Browning
Erica Lynn Canada
Megan Cooper
Carly Rose Darnell
Taya Lannette Dogan
Shayna Noelle Ellis
Chelsie Kay Farmer
Emily Fields
Reagan E. Johnson
Ashlee Marie Keeney
Amanda Joyce Lester
Taylor Beth Rayne McClanahan
Sierra Hope Morris
Brittany Nicole Richardson
Halee Rayann Ring
Mackenzie Susan Ross
Aaron Dale Scarbro
Kayla Ruth Sleboda
Hollie Mae White
Peyton Marie Wilkinson

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS STUDIES

Antonio Lee Brown
Tyler Lee Chantz Brown
Anthony Gabriel Casillas
Sheree Nathlia Clayborn
India Hairston-James
Matthew Ryan Harrison
Neil Dillon Higgins
Jared Daniel Hunt
Kyle James McCormick
Madison Blake Rafuson

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.





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