

2013 COMMENCEMENT

An Invitation to Attend Your
EXCELSIOR COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT
Friday, July 12, 2013

AT THE
Empire State Plaza Convention Center
Albany, New York

WWW.EXCELSIOR.EDU/COMMENCEMENT



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHN F. EBERSOLE

Congratulations on earning your degree!



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, I invite you to attend the College's 42nd Annual Commencement at 3:00 PM Friday, July 12, in the Empire State Plaza Convention Hall.

Always a time for joy, recognition, and reflection, Commencement offers a very special chance to meet other graduates and make lasting connections. It is also an opportunity for the entire Excelsior College family to come together face-to-face, often for the first time, to celebrate the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment that is unique to our graduates.

Though you may have received your diploma already, we hope you will attend so that you may accept the public recognition your fine academic accomplishments deserve. Bring family and friends—all are welcome. We look forward to meeting you in person and sharing your pride on this very special day.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

ADM. MIKE MULLEN, U.S. NAVY (RET.)



Admiral Mike Mullen served as the 17th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (2007–2011). He was the principal military advisor to President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama, as well as to two secretaries of defense.

He led the military during a critical period of transition, overseeing the end of the combat mission in Iraq and the development of a new military strategy for Afghanistan. He advocated for the rapid development and fielding of innovative technologies, championed emerging and enduring international partnerships, and advanced new methods for combating terrorism.

Mullen has deep experience in leading change in complex organizations, executive development and succession planning, diversity implementation, crisis management, strategic planning, budget policy, congressional relations, risk management, technical innovation, and cybersecurity. He is widely recognized as an “honest broker” in his key leadership roles, and he maintains strong relationships with leaders worldwide.

He and his wife, Deborah, remain staunch advocates for veterans and their families on a broad range of issues, including drawing public attention and institutional focus to the challenges of post-traumatic stress, combat-related brain injury, military suicide, care of the wounded, and veteran homelessness.

AWARDS

GRADUATE AWARDS

A variety of graduate awards are presented during the annual Awards Convocation (see page 4) to recognize outstanding achievement. While some awards are school-specific, others are open to eligible graduates throughout the College. Many of the awards require that you meet one or more criteria to be considered, and awardees are drawn from a pool of eligible individuals. Others allow you to nominate yourself.

STUDENT SUPPORT AWARD

Graduates are encouraged to nominate a person (or persons) whose assistance and encouragement played a significant role in their quest to earn an Excelsior College degree. The deadline for nominations is April 12 and the nomination form is available at www.excelsior.edu/graduateawards.

Descriptions of all awards are available at www.excelsior.edu/graduateawards. For more information, send an email to commencement@excelsior.edu and be sure to include the name of the award in the subject line of your message.

GRADUATE SPEAKER AND VOCALIST

One graduate has the opportunity to represent the class by speaking at Commencement. If you are interested in nominating yourself or a graduate you know, submit a brief statement incorporating the following:

- What the nominee values most about his/her experience with the College
- General idea of anticipated speech topic
- List of nominee's previous public speaking experience

Graduates are also considered to perform "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful" as the Commencement vocalist during the ceremony. If you are interested, submit an audio sample with a brief statement incorporating:

- Why you are interested in singing at Commencement
- A summary of your previous vocal experience

Please return your statement and audio (if applicable) to Alicia Baker via email at abaker@excelsior.edu or to the Commencement Office, Excelsior College, 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203. For planning purposes, nominations must be received by May 17, 2013.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Celebrate Your Achievement!

Thursday, July 11, 2013

4:00-5:30 PM Welcome Reception for Graduates and Guests
The Desmond Hotel

5:30 PM Awards Convocation
The Desmond Hotel



Friday, July 12, 2013

8:30 AM	Shuttle bus service begins between The Desmond Hotel and Excelsior College
9:00–10:00 AM	Open House at Excelsior College with continental breakfast for graduates and their guests*
10:00–11:30 AM	Workshops for Graduates* in Excelsior College meeting rooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Your Next Degree or Certificate from the School of Nursing</i> • <i>Graduate Opportunities in the School of Health Sciences</i> • <i>Your Master's Degree from the School of Liberal Arts</i> • <i>Your MBA or MS Cybersecurity Degree from the School of Business & Technology</i>
Noon	Shuttle service continues between The Desmond Hotel and Empire State Plaza
1:00–2:15 PM	Commencement Check-in Meeting Room 5 Empire State Plaza Convention Center
3:00 PM	Commencement Ceremony* Empire State Plaza Convention Hall
5:00 PM	Reception for all graduates and their guests Base of The Egg, Empire State Plaza

Saturday, July 13, 2013

9:00–10:00 AM	Graduate Breakfast with the Alumni Advisory Board* The Desmond Hotel
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* Please register to attend these events by completing the 2013 response form online or returning it by mail (see page 6).

ACTIVITIES

FOR GRADUATES AND GUESTS

Welcome Reception for Graduates and Guests

Excelsior College, in conjunction with the Excelsior College Alumni Association, will host a reception on Thursday, July 11, from 4:00–5:30 PM at The Desmond Hotel. Join us for this celebratory event that brings together graduates, honored guests, and the entire College community. Commencement information will be available and refreshments will be served. There will also be tables in the hotel lobby with information about Commencement, the College, and the Capital-Saratoga Region.

Awards Convocation

The College's annual Awards Convocation, to be held Thursday, July 11, at 5:30 PM at The Desmond Hotel, celebrates the achievements of graduate and alumni award recipients as well as honored guests. During this event, award presentations take place and honorees have the opportunity to tell inspiring and often poignant stories of their own educational experiences and life accomplishments.

College Open House and Commencement Day Workshops

You and your guests are invited to the College's open house at 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, on Friday, July 12, from 9:00–10:00 AM. Enjoy a continental breakfast, meet your academic advisors, and take a tour of the College. Workshops for graduates begin promptly at 10:00 AM and last 90 minutes. (See page 7 for more about the workshops.)

Commencement Ceremony Arrival Times and Check-In

Please arrive at the Commencement site in the Empire State Plaza Convention Center between 1:00 and 2:15 PM. When you arrive, report to the check-in desks located in Meeting Room 5. The Commencement ceremony will begin at 3:00 PM in the Convention Hall.

Note: Graduates and guests arriving early at the Empire State Plaza can take advantage of a variety of food venues on the concourse.



Reception—Celebrating the Class of 2013

Immediately following the ceremony, just outside the Convention Hall in the area at the base of The Egg, the College will host a reception for all graduates and guests. Plan to stay and mingle with College faculty and staff as well as the Board of Trustees and Alumni Association Advisory Board. There will also be gathering spaces for each school of the College so you can become acquainted with other graduates from similar degree programs. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Graduate Breakfast with the Alumni Advisory Board

Now that you are a graduate, you are automatically a member of the Excelsior College Alumni Association. We invite you and one guest to the breakfast on Saturday, July 13, from 9:00–10:00 AM at The Desmond Hotel. Take this opportunity to meet the members of the Alumni Association Advisory Board and discuss alumni issues.

INDIVIDUALS NEEDING ACCOMMODATION

We strive to make the Commencement ceremony accessible to individuals with differing physical abilities. A sign-language interpreter will be at the ceremony for those with hearing impairments.

If you or any of your guests require auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Commencement Office toll free at 888-647-2388; at the greeting press 1-1-8181, or call 518-608-8181, or email commencement@excelsior.edu.

Registration Instructions and Information

RSVP BY JUNE 12, 2013

Registration is required online or by mail.

Registration requires completion of the Commencement 2013 Response Form.

Register online at

www.excelsior.edu/commencement

(If you register online, you do not need to return the form by mail.)

Register by mail by returning your completed form in the Commencement response envelope provided to:

Commencement Office

Excelsior College

7 Columbia Circle

Albany NY 12203-5159

Note: You will receive your cap/gown/hood when you check in for the Commencement ceremony. It is yours to keep.

Plaza Travel Center

For assistance with travel arrangements, contact the College's travel agency, Plaza Travel Center, at 800-666-3404.

Let them know you are attending Commencement and they will help you look for the lowest airfares available on a choice of airlines serving Albany International Airport. Car rentals can be secured in the same phone call.

Hotel Reservations

The Desmond Hotel (www.desmondhotels.com) is the headquarters hotel, and a block of rooms has been reserved from Wednesday, July 10 through Saturday, July 13, 2013, with a special single/double occupancy rate of \$139 per night.

Note: The Desmond is a smoke-free hotel.

To make a reservation, call the hotel at 800-448-3500 and reference Excelsior College Commencement 2013 and reservation ID# 11L2UY. Reservations may be guaranteed for late arrival with one night's deposit or a valid American Express, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover account number and expiration date. Overnight rooms not guaranteed for late arrival will be released for sale at 4:00 PM on the day of arrival.

Hotel check-in time is 4:00 PM. Check-out time is 12:00 noon. Arrangements for early check-in can be made directly with the hotel and are based on availability. If early check-in is not available, luggage may be stored in the hotel's baggage room. All reservations must be made by Sunday, June 23, 2013, in order to receive the special rate of \$139 per night.

Shuttle Buses

We strongly encourage you and your guests to use the shuttle buses between The Desmond Hotel and Excelsior College as well as between the hotel and the Empire State Plaza (where parking is limited). The first shuttle bus will depart for the open house and workshops on Friday morning at 8:30 AM. The shuttle bus schedule is available online and will be available at the information table and Welcome Reception at the hotel on Thursday.

Note: Graduates and/or guests who require the use of an accessible shuttle bus must make prior arrangements by calling the Commencement Office no later than June 28, 2013. Reservations are required.

Workshops

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Prepare for the Future:

Attend a Workshop

Excelsior College graduates from all around the globe have one thing in common — they are lifelong learners. Excelsior College wants to support you in your future learning endeavors as well as help you meet your career goals. The workshops are our graduation present to you, designed to provide information on how you can continue your education with Excelsior College.

Excelsior offers a range of degree and certificate programs as well as assessment tools that validate knowledge. Graduates who have earned an associate degree often move on to a bachelor's degree; those with a bachelor's degree might want a master's program that, like their undergraduate program, is flexible, affordable, and respected. There are also certificate programs that appeal to students who want to explore a specific academic area without committing to a degree program.

Workshops are also an opportunity for us to gain your feedback on our programs and services in order to better meet the needs of our students. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.



Workshops

- **Your Next Degree or Certificate from the School of Nursing**
- **Graduate Opportunities in the School of Health Sciences**
- **Your Master's Degree from the School of Liberal Arts**
- **Your MBA or MS Cybersecurity Degree from the School of Business & Technology**

Questions?

Visit www.excelsior.edu/commencementFAQ
or contact the **Commencement Office** at
Excelsior College toll free 888-647-2388;
at the greeting press 1-1-8181,
or call **518-608-8181**, or email
commencement@excelsior.edu.

Webcast and Photographs

Live Webcast of Ceremony

We have made arrangements for the ceremony to broadcast live on our website. Graduates attending are always encouraged to bring guests with them. For those unable to attend, we encourage you, your family, and friends to go to **www.excelsior.edu/commencement** at 3:00 PM Eastern time to watch the ceremony. The ceremony will be archived on the website following Commencement. *Note: Personal viewing depends on your computer's capabilities. As with any live broadcast, connectivity issues could arise at the time of the broadcast.*

Professional

Graduation Photographs

For your convenience, we have made arrangements with Island Photography to photograph our graduates at Commencement. Two to three professional photos will be taken of you as you cross the stage during the ceremony and complimentary color proofs and ordering information will be sent to you within one to three days after the ceremony for your consideration. Island Photography offers graduates a secure photo marketing website as well as a complete 100-percent money-back guarantee for any reason, for any product offered, with no questions asked. For more information, visit www.islandphoto.com.



Souvenir Photos and Photo Area

Commemorate your achievement with a complimentary souvenir photo. A special area will be set up in the Convention Center where graduates and their guests can pose for a free photo, printed on the spot. The room will also have a backdrop for graduates and guests to take their own pictures. College staff will be there to assist with photography.

Memorabilia and Tourism

Memorabilia

Representatives will be available at Commencement to assist you with ordering class rings, personalized graduation announcements, accessories, nursing pins, apparel, and unique College-branded merchandise. You may also purchase items in advance by going to www.excelsior.edu/store. An order form from Jostens, reseller of rings and graduation announcements, is also included as part of this packet.

Tourist Information

Excelsior College welcomes you to discover Albany and the Capital Region of New York State. This area has enticed visitors for more than 400 years and offers historic sites, fabulous attractions, and entertaining events. World-class museums, unique galleries, stunning architecture, excellent restaurants, and welcoming accommodations will make your experience legendary.

For more information on Albany and the Capital Region, visit www.albany.org, and for statewide information, visit www.ILoveNY.com.

Nursing Pins

Nursing graduates, you have earned the right to wear an Excelsior College nursing pin. The pin is a symbol of your entry into professional nursing. For information on nursing pins and an order form, call toll free 800-324-5995 ext. 359 or email sbourland@mtmrecognition.com.



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