



# 2014

## COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION

July 10–11, 2014 | Albany, New York





The Board of Trustees invites  
you to attend the  
43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
COMMENCEMENT  
*of*  
EXCELSIOR COLLEGE  
*at*  
3:00 PM on Friday, July 11, 2014  
*in the*  
Empire State Plaza Convention Hall  
Albany, New York



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014

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4:00–5:30 PM **Welcome Reception for Graduates and Guests**  
The Desmond Hotel  
Excelsior College, in conjunction with the Alumni Association, hosts a reception for graduates, honored guests, and the entire College community.

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5:30 PM **Awards Convocation**  
The Desmond Hotel  
During this event, awards are presented and honorees have the opportunity to tell inspiring and often poignant stories of their own educational experiences and life accomplishments.

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## FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2014

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8:30 AM **Shuttle bus service** begins between The Desmond Hotel and Excelsior College.

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9:00–10:30 AM **Open House at Excelsior College\***  
Graduates and their guests can enjoy a continental breakfast, meet with academic advisors, take a tour of the College, and gather with the members of the Alumni Association Advisory Board.

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Noon **Shuttle bus service** continues between The Desmond Hotel and Empire State Plaza.

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1:00–2:15 PM **Commencement Check-in**  
Meeting Room 5, Empire State Plaza Convention Center  
A photo ID is requested at check-in.  
NOTE: Graduates and guests arriving early at the Empire State Plaza can take advantage of a variety of food venues on the concourse.

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3:00 PM **Commencement Ceremony\***  
Empire State Plaza Convention Hall

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5:00 PM **Reception for Graduates and Their Guests**  
Outside Empire State Plaza Convention Hall  
Immediately following the ceremony, graduates and guests can mingle with College faculty and staff as well as the Board of Trustees and Alumni Association Advisory Board. Each school has a gathering space so you can become acquainted with other graduates from your degree program.

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*\*Register to attend these events by completing the 2014 response form online or returning it by mail.*

# CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS

## AWARDS CONVOCATION RECOGNIZES ACHIEVEMENTS

A variety of graduate and alumni awards are presented during the annual Awards Convocation to recognize outstanding achievement.

To learn more about these awards, and to see if you're eligible to apply for one, go to [www.excelsior.edu/graduateawards](http://www.excelsior.edu/graduateawards).

## NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR THE 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 11. For more info and the nomination form, go to [www.excelsior.edu/ssa](http://www.excelsior.edu/ssa).

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER IS EDUCATION CHAMPION JAMIE P. MERISOTIS, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF LUMINA FOUNDATION

Long a champion of the idea that higher education enhances both society and individuals, Merisotis has worked for decades to increase educational opportunity among low-income, minority, and other historically underrepresented populations. The Lumina Foundation is the nation's largest private foundation committed solely to enrolling and graduating more students from college.

## PARTICIPATE AS THE GRADUATE SPEAKER OR VOCALIST

One graduate has the opportunity to represent the class by speaking at Commencement. Nominate yourself or a graduate you know by submitting 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) by May 16 to Alicia Baker via email at [abaker@excelsior.edu](mailto:abaker@excelsior.edu) or to the Commencement Office, Excelsior College, 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203.

## *Webcast and Photographs*

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### *Live Webcast of Ceremony*

For those unable to attend, we encourage you, your family, and friends to go to [www.excelsior.edu/commencement](http://www.excelsior.edu/commencement) at 3:00 PM Eastern time to watch the ceremony online. The ceremony will be archived on the website following Commencement.

### *Graduation Photographs*

Island Photography ([www.islandphoto.com](http://www.islandphoto.com)) will take two to three professional photos as graduates cross the stage during the ceremony. Color proofs and ordering information will be sent within one to three days after the ceremony.

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*

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### *Memorabilia*

Excelsior-branded apparel and unique College merchandise will be offered for sale at Commencement. Representatives will also be available to assist you with ordering class rings, personalized graduation announcements, and accessories. Nursing pins can be ordered by calling 800-324-5995, ext. 6956 or email [sbourland@mtmrecognition.com](mailto:sbourland@mtmrecognition.com). You may also purchase items in advance by going to [www.excelsior.edu/store](http://www.excelsior.edu/store).

### *Tourist Information*

For more information on Albany and the Capital Region, including additional hotel options, visit [www.albany.org](http://www.albany.org). For statewide information, visit [www.ILoveNY.com](http://www.ILoveNY.com).

## INDIVIDUALS NEEDING ACCOMMODATION

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](mailto:commencement@excelsior.edu).

# *Registration Instructions and Information*

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**RSVP BY JUNE 11, 2014**

## *Registration is required online or by mail.*

Registration requires completion of the Commencement 2014 Response Form.

### **Register online at**

[www.excelsior.edu/commencement](http://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. A photo ID will be requested at check-in.*

## *Plaza Travel Center*

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

## *Hotel Reservations*

The headquarter hotel is The Desmond Hotel ([www.desmondhotels.com](http://www.desmondhotels.com)), and a block of rooms has been reserved with a special single/double occupancy rate of \$139 per night.

To make a reservation, call 800-448-3500 and reference Excelsior College Commencement 2014 and ID#1237SY. Reservations may be guaranteed for late arrival with one night's deposit or a valid credit card. 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 22, 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 on Friday morning at 8:30 AM. The shuttle bus schedule is available online and 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 27. Reservations are required.

### **Questions?**

Visit [www.excelsior.edu/commencementFAQ](http://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](mailto:commencement@excelsior.edu).



[WWW.EXCELSIOR.EDU/COMMENCEMENT](http://WWW.EXCELSIOR.EDU/COMMENCEMENT)