



EXCELSIOR COLLEGE
AWARDS CONVOCATION

Thursday, July 10, 2014, 5:30 PM

The Desmond Hotel

Albany, New York

WELCOME

Dr. Mary Beth Hanner
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

GRADUATE AWARDS PRESENTATION

Dr. Mary Beth Hanner
Provost and Chief Academic Officer
and

Dr. Patrick Jones
Vice Provost

Presenting to

ANDREA YVETTE COVINGTON BROWN
Michael J. Cooley Memorial Award

FRANK ANDOLINI
Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award

JAMIE DONALD ROTTMANN
Marvin Curling Memorial Award

CHRISTOPHER T. MOORE
Robert E. Kinsinger Award

HANNAH ELIZABETH ARTHUR
Charles W. Laffin Jr. Memorial Award

MOOKA M. SITALI
Ruth V. Matheney Memorial Award

ANN MARIE F. DESMOND
Mildred L. Montag Memorial Award

MICHAEL CLARIZIO
Joshua L. Smith Award

LOLLY DEBOIS
2014 Student Support Award
for Supporting Francis R. DeBois Jr., BS

ALUMNI AWARDS PRESENTATION

William Senn '07
President, Alumni Advisory Board
and
Dwayne Hanford '05
Chair, Alumni Advisory Board Awards Committee

Presenting to

MARK ARVID BOWMAN '00
Alumni Achievement Award

PAMELA SUE LEWIS '88, '14
Alumni Service Award

LINDA ANNE DAYER-BERENSON '89
Carrie B. Lenburg Award

TANYA R. WHITNEY '86, '91
C. Wayne Williams Award

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL PRESENTATION

Dr. John F. Ebersole
President

Presenting to

WALLACE W. ALTES
Executive Consultant

ADJOURN

Dr. Mary Beth Hanner
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

GRADUATE AWARDS

Michael J. Cooley Memorial Award

The Michael J. Cooley Memorial Award is presented to a health sciences student in memory and recognition of the contributions of Michael Cooley to the School of Health Sciences, as a beloved and dedicated adjunct faculty member. The recipient of the award is a graduate of the School of Health Sciences who embodies exemplary academic achievement and exceptional perseverance. This graduate accepts the challenges that befall an adult learner and embraces the opportunity to grow academically, professionally, and personally within the health sciences discipline.

ANDREA YVETTE COVINGTON BROWN

Bachelor of Science

Marvin Curling Memorial Award

This award is given in memory and recognition of the vision and contribution of Marvin Curling to the development of collaboration between industry and education through the integration of corporate-sponsored training and college-level learning. A New York Power Authority training superintendent, Curling motivated employees at NYPA to persist in educational advancement and helped establish degrees in technology at Excelsior (then Regents) College. In honor of the superior model of collaboration that he helped establish, the New York Power Authority contributed the endowment to maintain this annual award.

JAMIE DONALD ROTTMANN

Bachelor of Science

Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award

This award is given in memory of Catherine Craig-Erhardt, a member of the College staff beginning in 1980, who, from 1984 until her untimely death in 1986, served as the College's liaison to the military. It recognizes and commemorates her commitment to helping military servicemembers attain their educational goals and is presented for service to others, commitment to education, and for academic, professional, and personal achievement.

FRANK ANDOLINI

Bachelor of Science

Arthur J. Gregg Award

This award recognizes the leadership and vision of founding trustee Lt. General Arthur J. Gregg [U.S. Army (Ret.)]. General Gregg chaired the College's Board of Overseers and guided the transition to independence as a private institution, becoming the first chair of the Board of Trustees. With a distinguished career in the U.S. Army, General Gregg has contributed greatly to the College's service to the U.S. military. The award is presented to a student who is on active duty in the military and who demonstrates outstanding academic and career or professional achievement.

BARBRA GRIGGS

Bachelor of Science



GRADUATE AWARDS

Robert E. Kinsinger Award

This award recognizes the leadership and vision of founding trustee Dr. Robert E. Kinsinger. As the first chair of the College's Board of Overseers, Dr. Kinsinger built upon his earlier relationship with the College as a vice president of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. While at the Foundation, Dr. Kinsinger encouraged and supported the development of the Regents College nursing degree programs, an interest that he carried forward into his work as an overseer and later as a trustee. The award is presented to a student who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement and who is involved with the nonprofit sector as either an employee or volunteer.

CHRISTOPHER T. MOORE

Master of Science

Charles W. Laffin Jr. Memorial Award

In recognition of Charles W. Laffin Jr., whose vision and leadership gave momentum to a fledgling community college movement and left a legacy of opportunity to millions of adult learners, and in gratitude for his invaluable service to Excelsior College, the faculty of the College presents this award for academic excellence and outstanding achievement.

HANNAH ELIZABETH ARTHUR

Bachelor of Science

Robert P. Mahoney Award

In recognition of Dr. Robert P. Mahoney's outstanding contributions to liberal arts education at this College and his devotion to serving his community, this award is presented to a liberal arts graduate who completed his/her degree in the face of significant challenges and demonstrated a dedication to community and volunteer service.

BEATRIZ DE LOS SANTOS

Bachelor of Science

Ruth V. Matheny Memorial Award

This award is given in memory and recognition of the distinguished contributions of Ruth V. Matheny to nursing and nursing education, her nationally acclaimed leadership toward progressive, patient-centered practices in the classroom and at the bedside, and of her wise and willing counsel to the Excelsior College nursing programs. The recipient of this award has completed an undergraduate degree at Excelsior College and has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and excellence on the nursing theory examinations or nursing courses and the nursing capstone requirement.

MOOKA M. SITALI

Bachelor of Science



GRADUATE AWARDS

Mildred L. Montag Memorial Award

This award is given in recognition of Dr. Mildred L. Montag's national leadership in nursing and nursing education and her distinguished contribution to the development of the nursing programs offered by Excelsior College. The graduate selected to receive this award has completed the Excelsior College Master of Science degree in nursing and has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and excellence in all of the nursing courses, including the capstone course.

ANN MARIE F. DESMOND

Master of Science

Ewald B. Nyquist Award

In recognition of the leadership of Ewald B. Nyquist, founder of the College, who was determined to extend the quality of educational opportunity from kindergarten through college to learners everywhere, the trustees of Excelsior College present this award for academic excellence and outstanding achievement in earning a degree through independent study.

CHAVA T. HECHT

Bachelor of Arts

Joshua L. Smith Award

This award recognizes the leadership and vision of founding trustee Dr. Joshua L. Smith. During his three years as chair of the Excelsior College Board of Trustees, he encouraged the College to expand graduate degree programs. Smith, a retired professor and director of the Program in Higher Education and Center for Urban Community College Leadership, School of Education, New York University, dedicated his career to education. Thus, this award is presented to a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies graduate who demonstrated outstanding achievement and has a career focused on education.

MICHAEL CLARIZIO

Master of Arts

2014 Student Support Award

The Student Support Award is presented to a person (or persons) whose assistance and encouragement played a significant role in a graduate's quest to earn an Excelsior College degree.

LOLLY DEBOIS

nominated by

FRANCIS R. DEBOIS JR.

Bachelor of Science

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Andrea Yvette Covington Brown

MICHAEL J. COOLEY MEMORIAL AWARD

Andrea Yvette Covington Brown of Durham, North Carolina, is the recipient of the Michael J. Cooley Memorial Award, presented to a health sciences student who embodies exemplary academic achievement and exceptional perseverance. Brown, a former medical office manager, earned a Bachelor of Science in health sciences, cum laude, with a 3.72 GPA in June 2014.

Brown is the embodiment of a lifelong learner, one who has persevered through personal and professional challenges. She decided to work toward her bachelor's degree in her late 50s because she realized that career advancement requires the demonstration of ongoing achievement of training and knowledge. Despite many stops and starts in her education, she pursued her degree over several decades and 10 colleges. Family illness, a car accident leading to two major surgical procedures, water damage to her home from severe weather, and job loss were more challenges along the way. Brown, who also earned an Associate of Science in liberal arts from Excelsior College in 2013, says, "I learned that the human capacity for learning knows few bounds. I confirmed for myself that 'where there is a will, there is a way.'"

Frank Andolini

CATHERINE CRAIG-ERHARDT MEMORIAL AWARD

In recognition of his commitment to education, outstanding academic achievement, and service to others, U.S. Marine Corps Master Sgt. Frank Andolini of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, is the recipient of the Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award. Andolini graduated with a Bachelor of Science in liberal arts in May 2014. He completed his degree with credits from military training, transfer credit from college courses, and Excelsior online courses.

Although Andolini attended college after high school, he longed for something more meaningful in his life and joined the Marine Corps when he was 22. "As a Marine, I developed many attributes that placed order and purpose in my life," he says. Committed to service, educational achievement, and personal development, Andolini serves as the national training team chief of officer training and says he has found his niche as a Marine Corps recruiter.

Andolini's commanding officer says, "He cares for, molds, educates, and uplifts anyone he comes in contact with," and noted that he devotes more volunteer time to charities and community events than some apply

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

to their professions. He volunteers with JROTC, a youth mentoring program, Toys for Tots, and many other charitable causes.

The recipient of the 1st Marine Corps District Senior Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Year, Andolini has also received the Navy Commendation Medal and been named Station Commander of the Year. He hopes to continue his education in law school following retirement.

Jamie Donald Rottmann

MARVIN CURLING MEMORIAL AWARD

Jamie Donald Rottmann of Ridgeland, Mississippi, earned a Bachelor of Science in nuclear engineering technology in February 2014 with a 4.0 GPA. A senior nuclear instructor at Entergy Services Inc., he is the recipient of the Marvin Curling Memorial Award, given to a student who has achieved outstanding academic achievement while pursuing a degree in a nuclear technology program.

Rottmann enlisted in the U.S. Navy following high school and was accepted into its Nuclear Power Program. Serving aboard the USS *Enterprise* for three years, he discovered a new passion for teaching. Later, he served as staff instructor at the Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa, New York. He is the recipient of two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals—one for superior performance as a staff instructor, the other for his service as the reactor controls training petty officer on the *Enterprise*.

Honorably discharged from the Navy, Rottmann continues to encourage and support others in their pursuit of higher education. He also volunteers with the Mississippi Community Animal Rescue and Adoption facilities, and works with local disabled veterans in activities designed to enrich their lives.

Barbra Griggs

ARTHUR J. GREGG AWARD

Army Master Sgt. Barbra Griggs of Santa Rita, Guam, is the recipient of the Arthur J. Gregg Award, presented to a graduate who is active duty in the U.S. military and who demonstrates outstanding academic and career or professional achievement. In June, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in liberal arts with a 3.5 GPA. She transferred military credits and college courses, and completed her degree with Excelsior online courses.

During her 19-year military career, she has held leadership positions from squad leader to first sergeant. In her degree program's capstone

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

course, she covered some of the more complex issues the military is experiencing with regard to diversity, ethical dilemmas, and post-traumatic stress, and not only provided possible root causes, but also offered viable solutions.

A chemical operations specialist, Griggs oversees the personal life-cycle management functions for more than 22,000 active and reserve component Chemical Biological Radiation Nuclear (CBRN) soldiers. She balances a military career with being a wife and mother, and serves as a model for her family as well as for the soldiers she leads. A graduate of the Sergeants Major Academy, Griggs received high praise from one of the faculty members. He noted that she's always willing to tackle complex academic issues and derive relevancy to actual events. "She is involved, dedicated, and caring—the epitome of student and military leadership," he says.

Christopher T. Moore

ROBERT E. KINSINGER AWARD

Christopher T. Moore, RN, WHNP-BC, APRN, of Las Vegas, Nevada, earned a Master of Science in nursing in January 2014 with a 3.9 GPA. The recipient of the Robert E. Kinsinger Award in recognition of his outstanding academic achievement and volunteer work in the nonprofit sector, Moore contributes many hours to diabetes education. A surgical intensive care RN at Valley Hospital Medical Center, Moore is a two-time Excelsior grad, having also earned a Bachelor of Science in liberal arts in 2010.

In 2001, Moore cofounded the Adult Diabetes Education and Management Support Group (ADEMS), the single largest ongoing diabetes support group in the state of Nevada. He is also one of eight master trainers, certified by the State of Nevada, in chronic disease management. Moore cohosts a weekly podcast, diabetespowershow.com, which features diabetes experts and includes topics such as diabetes management and control. He is also the host and planner for one of the largest diabetes fairs in Las Vegas, a yearly event held in association with the Nevada Diabetes Association and the Southern Nevada Health District.

Among his many awards and honors is a United States Senatorial Commendation, a Mayor's Commendation from the City of Las Vegas, and designation as a March of Dimes Nurse of the Year.



GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Hannah Elizabeth Arthur

CHARLES W. LAFFIN JR. MEMORIAL AWARD

Hannah Elizabeth Arthur of Kingsport, Tennessee, is the recipient of the Charles W. Laffin Jr. Memorial Award, presented in recognition of academic excellence and outstanding achievement. Arthur earned a Bachelor of Science in general business in March 2014, completing more than half of her degree requirements through proficiency exams and graduating magna cum laude with a 3.85 GPA.

Arthur, a lifelong non-traditional student, was homeschooled as a child, giving her the flexibility to spend more than 25 hours a week participating in gymnastics. After graduating from high school, she spent a year at a traditional college, and although she did well academically, she found the coursework and schedule inconsistent with the educational freedom with which she was accustomed. Enrolling in Excelsior allowed her the flexibility to not only work on her education, but also earn a Montessori teaching certificate, start a small personalized jewelry company, and work as a promotional model/brand ambassador. She says, "The opportunity to expedite credit acquisition in subjects that I had prior knowledge in and concentrate only on that which needed some serious study was truly a gift, and allowed me to move on to furthering my goals much, much faster than any traditional college could have ever done." Excelsior, she says, is a springboard toward continued educational pursuits and she plans to earn an MBA and a doctorate.

Beatriz De Los Santos

ROBERT P. MAHONEY AWARD

Beatriz De Los Santos of Fort Eustis, Virginia, is the recipient of the Robert P. Mahoney Award, presented to a graduate who completed a degree in the face of significant challenges and demonstrated a dedication to community and volunteer service. De Los Santos, a child therapist intern at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia, earned a Bachelor of Science in liberal arts in March 2013 with a 3.35 GPA by combining credit from military training and other college courses with Excelsior classes.

A servicemember in the U.S. Army, she was injured two years ago while on active duty. While recovering from her injuries and adjusting to a less active lifestyle, De Los Santos, a former marathon runner, sought a way to regain her sense of worth and give back to the community. She started classes at Excelsior to complete her degree and also began to

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

volunteer with the Community Outreach Program in Newport News, Virginia, in its youth mentorship program, with Turn The Page, a non-profit that assists individuals and their families recently released from prison, and with the Ride 2 Recovery Rehabilitation Program.

The director of the mentorship program noted that De Los Santos “stands head and shoulders” over most other volunteers he works with and highlighted her initiative, intelligence, and creativity. She plans to continue her education and work toward a master’s degree.

Mooka M. Sitali

RUTH V. MATHENEY MEMORIAL AWARD

Mooka M. Sitali of British Columbia, Canada, is the 2014 recipient of the Ruth V. Matheney Memorial Award, presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and excellence on the nursing theory examinations or nursing courses and the nursing capstone requirement. Sitali earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing, magna cum laude, with a 3.81 GPA.

Originally from East Africa, Sitali worked as a staff nurse, clinical instructor, and acting nursing director in Zambia and Botswana before she and her husband sold all their possessions to move to the United States. After her husband completed a master of divinity degree, they moved to Canada, where she worked as an RN. Sitali enrolled in Excelsior because the flexibility in the options for earning general education credits appealed to her. She completed many of her prerequisites through Dantes, CLEP, and Excelsior College Examinations, often traveling long distances to the nearest testing center. Working full-time, and “shelving her personal life,” Sitali completed her bachelor’s in nursing 13 years after leaving home and two years after enrolling.

While she was away from Africa, she lost her father, grandfather, and younger sister. Their experiences with illness compared to the western world cemented her desire to continue her education with a master’s in public health, focusing on global health, and to advocate for improved services for patients in Sub-Saharan Africa.



GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ann Marie F. Desmond

MILDRED L. MONTAG MEMORIAL AWARD

Ann Marie F. Desmond of Blackwood, New Jersey, earned a Master of Science in nursing with a specialization in nursing informatics with a 4.0 GPA. She is the recipient of the Mildred L. Montag Memorial Award in recognition of excellence in all nursing courses, including the capstone. Desmond also earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Excelsior in 1994.

Desmond completed her degree while working full-time, caring for her elderly mother, and volunteering with the United Way of Philadelphia and the Tackling Breast Cancer campaign, a joint effort between Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals and the Philadelphia Eagles to raise money for breast cancer care and research in the Philadelphia area. Now the patient flow clinical supervisor at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, she felt the Excelsior nursing program allowed her to expand her knowledge base and improve her leadership abilities through collaboration with her colleagues.

"Excelsior's program instilled in me the confidence and skills to be able to be a presenter at the 2013 Patient Flow Management Congress," she says. In addition, she coauthored an in-house article for the Magnet Moments journal. As her current employer makes an institution-wide decision on an electronic health record system, Desmond plans to apply skills gained in the master's program to assist in the implementation.

Chava T. Hecht

EWALD B. NYQUIST AWARD

Chava T. Hecht of Brooklyn, New York, earned a Bachelor of Arts in liberal arts with a 3.94 GPA, graduating summa cum laude. She is the recipient of the Ewald B. Nyquist Award, presented to a graduate in recognition of academic excellence and outstanding achievement in earning a degree through independent study.

Hecht completed more than 95 percent of her degree requirements through independent study means such as CLEP Subject and General Examinations, Torah Accreditation Liaison, DANTES Subject Examinations, and Excelsior College Examinations. "As a self-disciplined student, I enjoyed the challenges of pacing myself to earn 120 credits over a period of a year," she says.

A teacher in a private school, Hecht is continuing her education, working on a master's degree in special education. "I have immense satisfaction from teaching and connect deeply with my students," says Hecht. "Excelsior's degree gave me a feeling of competence and security."

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Michael Clarizio

JOSHUA L. SMITH AWARD

An instructor of business administration at The College of Westchester, Michael Clarizio of Mahopac, New York, earned a Master of Arts in liberal studies. Clarizio is the recipient of the Joshua L. Smith Award, which is presented to a MA/LS graduate who demonstrates outstanding achievement and has a career focused in education.

Clarizio has earned three Excelsior degrees in the last 30 years—an Associate in Science in liberal arts in 1983, a Bachelor of Science in liberal arts in 1984, and most recently, the master's degree in October 2013.

He has taught for more than 20 years in both adult and day college programs within all formats, including traditional classroom classes, and online and hybrid courses. Since 2005, Clarizio has taught full-time at The College of Westchester, a private four-year institution in White Plains, New York. He has participated in the development of a project-based curriculum to prepare students for successful careers in business. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Clarizio teaches courses in business management and marketing and general education.

Lolly DeBois

(Nominated by Francis R. DeBois Jr.)

2014 STUDENT SUPPORT AWARD

A mother's love and encouragement is credited with the impetus for Command Sgt. Maj. Francis R. DeBois Jr. to complete the college degree he started more than 30 years ago. Francis earned a Bachelor of Science in liberal arts in February 2014, combining Excelsior courses with previously earned college credits and credit for military training.

Although Francis began his college studies in 1983, he was distracted from his initial quest for a degree. "To my mother's dismay, I spent too much time playing sports, partying, and chasing girls, and not enough time concentrating on my studies," he admits. Francis dropped out of college despite his mother's protests, joined the Army Reserve, and began working at General Electric. In 1992, he decided to join the Army and serve full-time; his mother not only supported his decision to serve his country, but also continued prompting Francis to complete his degree. "She pointed out to me that the Army offers a variety of education benefits, and I would be crazy not to take advantage of them," he says.

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

While Francis continued to pile on the excuses—he was too busy, college was too expensive, the Army was now his career path—Lolly countered with encouraging solutions: the Army would help with the costs, she'd pay for the books, he could take one class at a time. Finally, in 1996, Francis, now a sergeant, began to take classes. Like many Excelsior students, he had more than his share of responsibilities—a family and nine deployments to Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, but he persevered and succeeded.

Now a command sergeant major, the highest enlisted rank in the U.S. Army, Francis also has a degree to his name. By nominating his mother for the award, he admits that she was right, but also wants to “show her how much I appreciate her love, support, and faith in me.”

Lolly continues her support of Francis. Deployed once again to Afghanistan, he will not be able to attend Commencement and Convocation; however, his mom will be there to accept the Student Support Award and his parents will represent their son in his absence.



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes outstanding academic, professional, personal, and community contributions that are representative of our graduates. Presented to a graduate whose achievements may serve as a role model to inspire other graduates and students.

MARK ARVID BOWMAN

Mark Arvid Bowman '00 of Houston, Texas, is the 2014 recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award. Bowman, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts at Excelsior College, serves as chief engineer of the Soyuz Branch, Astronaut Office at the NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. Responsible for developing and maintaining engineering knowledge of Russian launch vehicles and spacecraft, he has lived in Russia for eight years. His career has included positions as NASA's deputy director of the Human Space Flight Program in Russia, where he was involved in the International Space Station, and as an attaché at the U.S. Embassy.

"My graduation from Regents (now Excelsior) College in 2000 filled an academic void that had been a blight on my resume for many years," Bowman explains. "Inspired and motivated by that accomplishment, I immediately went on to complete a master's degree at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and was subsequently able to obtain a coveted civil service position at NASA."

Among his many awards and recognitions are being named an Honored Professor (*Honoris Causa*) at the National Scientific Medical Research Center of Kazakhstan in 2011. He is also the recipient of the NASA Johnson Space Center Director's Commendation Award, more than 20 Installation Honor Awards and Individual and Group Achievement Awards, and the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement—Stellar Award from the RNASA Foundation. A member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Bowman is a past chapter president of the National Management Association.

He also gives back to his community. An Eagle Scout as a young man, Bowman has served as an assistant scoutmaster, scoutmaster, and committee chair for his local Boy Scout troop, and as a science advisor at a local elementary school. He also completed a two-year mission for his church in Santiago, Chile, from 1979 through 1981.

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Recognizes outstanding service to Excelsior College by a graduate whose efforts in advocacy, recruitment, or outreach may serve as a role model to others in helping the College achieve its overarching goals.

PAMELA SUE LEWIS

Pamela Sue Lewis '88, '14 of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the inaugural recipient of the Alumni Service Award, given in recognition of outstanding service to Excelsior College by a graduate whose efforts in advocacy, recruitment, or outreach may serve as a role model to others in helping the College achieve its overarching goals.

Lewis earned an Associate in Science in nursing from Excelsior (then Regents) College in 1988, a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences in 2014, and is currently enrolled in Excelsior's master's of health sciences program. She is a nurse on the mother/baby care unit at Presbyterian Health Care Services, where she has worked for more than 35 years. Lewis is also a representative on the hospital's maternal/baby care unit-based shared governance council. She has been NCC certified in Maternal Newborn Nursing (RNC-MNN) since 1999.

She has regularly encouraged friends and colleagues to pursue their academic goals with Excelsior College and offers words of encouragement to those that do. She supports fellow students within courses as well as outside of them via social media platforms such as Facebook.

Overall, she is a role model, has performed exceptionally well academically, and continues to engage in positive discussion with peers. Lewis is a strong believer in the Excelsior College mission—to provide high-quality, flexible education for adults—that has served her so well as a student. She is receiving this award in honor of her spirit and for being a true advocate of Excelsior College.

CARRIE B. LENBURG AWARD

In recognition of the accomplishments and vision of Dr. Carrie Lenburg, coordinator of the Regents College Nursing Program from 1973 to 1990, this award is presented to a nursing graduate who demonstrates a commitment to nursing education as well as academic and professional accomplishments in the field of nursing.

LINDA ANNE DAYER-BERENSON

Linda Anne Dayer-Berenson '89, PhD, APN-BC, CNE, FAANP, of Voorhees, New Jersey, is the recipient of the Carrie B. Lenburg Award in recognition of her commitment and contributions to nursing education and for her academic and professional accomplishments.

Despite entering college after high school, financial constraints prevented her from degree completion. Five years later, Dayer-Berenson completed an RN diploma program at the Frankford Hospital School of Nursing, but worried that her college credits would be lost. At her diploma school commencement, Dayer-Berenson made a commitment to graduation speaker Dr. Carrie Lenburg to pursue an Excelsior (then Regents) College bachelor's degree. Dayer-Berenson was able to apply her 100 previously earned college credits, and nine months later, she completed the requirements for a Bachelor of Science in nursing at Excelsior. She immediately entered a Master of Science in nursing program and her long academic career in nursing began when she was invited to join the Frankford faculty.

She says, "My Excelsior (Regents) degree was the gateway to my professional career, desire for lifelong learning, and a PhD. My education allowed me to practice as a nurse practitioner and an academician, permitting me to pay it forward by contributing to the education of hundreds of health care professionals."

Now associate clinical professor at Drexel University—College of Nursing and Health Professions and Rowan University—School of Osteopathic Medicine, Dayer-Berenson earned a Master of Science in nursing in critical care nursing at Widener University, a post-master's certificate in advanced nursing practice from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and a PhD in health sciences from Rutgers University.

Dayer-Berenson is the author of "Cultural Competencies: Impact on Health and Illness." She has presented and published on many topics, including pain management, pharmacology, and polypharmacy. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and received its Nurse Practitioner Award of Excellence for the State of New Jersey.

C. WAYNE WILLIAMS ALUMNI AWARD

Named after the College's first president, this award is presented in recognition of outstanding public service and community involvement by a graduate.

TANYA R. WHITNEY

Tanya R. Whitney '86 and '91, of Sorrento, Louisiana, is the recipient of the C. Wayne Williams Award, given in recognition of outstanding public service and community involvement by a graduate. Since leaving the active workforce, Whitney volunteers with several local organizations that support veterans, active military personnel, and their families. She serves as an honor guard member at women veteran funerals and gives educational presentations to schools, civic organizations, and other public groups on the service of women in the military and their impact on society. Whitney also supports her community as a volunteer cross country and track and field coach at St. Amant High School.

As an active-duty non-commissioned officer with more than 27 years experience as an aircraft maintenance repairer and supervisor, Whitney served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. She retired in 2010 as a master sergeant and then served as a Department of the Army civilian from 2010 to 2012, working as project integrator on the Army's Air Priority Transport Program.

Whitney earned an Associate of liberal arts and a Bachelor of liberal arts from Excelsior College, an Associate of Professional Aeronautics in 1985 from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, an Associate in General Science from Northern Virginia Community College in 1986 and a Master of Aeronautical Science with a dual major of Operations and Safety from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2000.

In addition to the awards presented to her in the military, she was awarded the Department of the Army's Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in 2012. She has received many accolades and awards from various organizations, including the Volunteer Coaches Award from St. Amant High School in 2013, the Legion of Merit for distinguished service from the National Guard Bureau in 2010, and the Order of St. Michael from the Army Aviation Association for exceptional service in 2006.

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

This award is intended to recognize individuals for exceptional contributions to the field of adult and distance education, as well as to Excelsior and its mission.

WALLACE W. ALTES

Wallace (Wally) Altes has more than 30 years of strategic business development experience, including leading his own human resource consulting firm, directing a large and complex business association, and serving as executive counsel to two of the largest public relations firms in New York's Capital Region. He currently provides strategic policy guidance to a select group of executives and continues to serve on the boards of many community organizations.

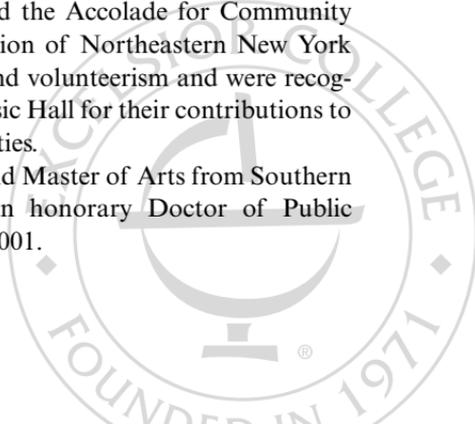


Altes has served as executive in residence for both the Lally School of Management and Technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, and Union Graduate College in Schenectady, New York. He was formerly the host of *The Bottom Line*, a business-oriented show on WMHT, the Albany area's public television station. Altes has lent his expertise on many state, regional, cultural, and business boards, including the Chamber Alliance of New York State, the Albany Institute of History and Art, Berkshire Bank, MVP Healthcare, and Excelsior's President's Advisory Council.

From 1990 to 2002, Altes served as president and CEO of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce. He and the Chamber led the effort to brand the area as Tech Valley, a name now in common usage and which captures the growing technological research and development occurring in the greater Albany region.

Among his most recent awards and recognitions are the Citizen Laureate Award from the University at Albany and the Chamber's James W. Michaels Award for Distinguished Service to the Region. He and his wife Jane Altes received the Accolade for Community Service from the Arthritis Foundation of Northeastern New York for their humanitarian endeavors and volunteerism and were recognized by the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall for their contributions to the area's art and cultural communities.

Altes holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from Southern Illinois University and received an honorary Doctor of Public Service from The Sage Colleges in 2001.



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