



2017

COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION

AND
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

July 13–14, 2017 | Albany, New York



The Board of Trustees invites
you to attend the

46TH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT OF
EXCELSIOR COLLEGE

and

THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION
OF JAMES N. BALDWIN

at

3:00 PM on Friday, July 14, 2017

in the

Empire State Plaza Convention Hall

Albany, New York



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017

Noon – 5:00 p.m.	Welcome Table hosted by the Excelsior College Alumni Association The Desmond Hotel Lobby
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5:30 p.m.	Awards Convocation The Desmond Hotel
	During this event that recognizes outstanding achievement, graduate and alumni awards are presented, and honorees have the opportunity to tell inspiring and often poignant stories of their own educational experiences and life accomplishments.
	All are welcome.

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2017

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Welcome Table hosted by the Excelsior College Alumni Association The Desmond Hotel Lobby
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8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Graduate Breakfast* The Desmond Hotel
	Now that you are a graduate, you are automatically a member of the Excelsior College Alumni Association. We invite you and one guest to attend the Alumni Association Annual Meeting, where you will meet members of the Alumni Leadership Council and discuss issues related to alumni.
	A continental breakfast will be provided.

Noon – 2:00 p.m.	Continuous shuttles from The Desmond Hotel Lobby to the Empire State Plaza
	Graduates and guests are strongly encouraged to use the complimentary shuttles, as parking at the Empire State Plaza is limited. Shuttle reservations are not required unless you require use of the accessible shuttle (see accommodations section on page 7). Anyone arriving early at the Empire State Plaza can take advantage of a variety of food venues on the Plaza Concourse.

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Commencement Check-in Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Meeting Room 5
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1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Complimentary Photo Booth & College Store
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Meeting Room 6

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	All Graduates Robed to Assemble for Procession Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Meeting Rooms 2–4
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3:00 p.m.	Commencement Ceremony* Empire State Plaza Convention Hall
	The inauguration of James N. Baldwin will take place during the Commencement ceremony. Karen Cox will receive an honorary degree and deliver the Commencement address.

5:00 p.m.	Reception for Graduates, Guests & College Community Empire State Plaza Convention Center
	Graduates and guests can mingle with College faculty and staff as well as the Board of Trustees and Alumni Leadership Council in the area outside the Convention Hall. Each school has a gathering space so you can become acquainted with other graduates and guests from your degree program.

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.	Continuous shuttles after the ceremony, during the reception, from the Empire State Plaza to The Desmond Hotel
	Passengers should return to the drop-off location to board buses.

*Register to attend these events online at excelsior.edu/commencement.

CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

James N. Baldwin, JD, EdD, was appointed the third president of Excelsior College in October 2016. He has spent a career working in education, serving as CEO and district superintendent for Questar III BOCES, as chief of staff and acting deputy commissioner for higher education in the New York State Education Department, and as executive deputy secretary of state for New York. A graduate of Union College, Baldwin received his JD from Albany Law School and EdD from Columbia University, Teachers College.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN, will receive an honorary degree and deliver the Commencement address. She is executive vice president and COO of Children's Mercy–Kansas City, an independent academic medical center. She is also the V. Fred Burry, MD, and Sandra Hobart Burry Chair in Nursing Advocacy and Leadership. Cox also serves as assistant dean for clinical partnerships at the University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC). She started her healthcare career as a licensed practical nurse, and earned an associate degree in nursing from Excelsior College (1982), a BSN from the University of Kansas, and an MSN and PhD from UMKC.

NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR THE STUDENT SUPPORT AWARD

This award honors a special person or group whose valuable assistance and encouragement significantly contributed in helping a graduate earn a degree.

You have the opportunity to recognize the individual(s) who provided you with the extra support that made a positive difference in your educational journey. The deadline for nominations is April 14. For more information and the nomination form, go to www.excelsior.edu/ssa.

PARTICIPATE AS THE GRADUATE SPEAKER

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; and list of nominee's previous public speaking experience.

Please email your statement by May 12 to Alicia Baker at abaker@excelsior.edu.

GRADUATE AWARDS

To learn more about graduate awards, and to see if you're eligible to apply for one, go to www.excelsior.edu/graduateawards.

Webcast and Photographs

Live Webcast of Ceremony

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 online. The ceremony will be archived on the website following Commencement.

Graduation Photographs

Island Photography (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.

Memorabilia and Tourism

Memorabilia

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

Tourist Information

For more information on Albany and the Capital Region, including additional hotel options, visit www.albany.org. For statewide information, visit www.ILoveNY.com or download the I Love NY app.

Registration Instructions and Information

RSVP BY JUNE 14, 2017

Online registration is required at
www.excelsior.edu/commencement

If you have problems while registering online, call the Commencement Office at 518-608-8181 to complete your registration.

You will receive your cap/gown/hood at Commencement check-in. It is yours to keep. A photo ID may be requested at check-in.

A large audience is anticipated at the ceremony so an overflow seating area with a monitor will be available with additional guest seating.

Plaza Travel Center

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

Hotel Reservations

The headquarters hotel is The Desmond Hotel (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 2017 and ID#12J4DS. 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 Monday, June 26, in order to receive the special rate of \$139 per night.

INDIVIDUALS NEEDING ACCOMMODATION

A sign-language interpreter will be at the ceremony for those with hearing impairments. An accessible shuttle to the ceremony will be available between The Desmond Hotel and the Empire State Plaza, but reservations are required.

If you or any of your guests require the accessible shuttle, auxiliary aids or services, contact the Commencement Office at 518-608-8181, or email commencement@excelsior.edu by June 14.

QUESTIONS?

Visit www.excelsior.edu/commencementFAQ
or contact the Commencement Office at
Excelsior College at 518-608-8181,
or email commencement@excelsior.edu.

Directions and Parking

Directions to The Desmond Hotel

Address: 660 Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY

Phone: 800-448-3500

From the South or West: Take the New York State Thruway to Exit 24. After toll booths, take the Northway (I-87) North; the exit also reads “Montreal and Saratoga.” Go to Exit 4 (Albany Airport). At the bottom of the ramp, turn left. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Albany-Shaker Road. You will pass under the highway. Proceed straight through the next intersection. The Desmond Hotel is the next building on your left.

From the East: Take the Massachusetts Turnpike West to Exit B1 (I-90 Albany West). Remain on I-90 West for 15–20 miles, viewing downtown Albany to your left. Stay on I-90 until you see signs for “Montreal North.” Go north on the Northway (I-87) to Exit 4 (Albany Airport). At bottom of ramp, turn left. At next traffic light, turn left onto Albany-Shaker Road. You will pass under the highway. Proceed straight through the exit intersection. The Desmond Hotel is the next building on your left.

From the North: Take the Northway (I-87) to Exit 4 (Albany Airport/Wolf Road). On ramp, stay in right

lane. At the end of the ramp, there is a traffic light. Turn left at the light onto Old Wolf Road. At the next traffic light, turn right onto Albany-Shaker Road and take an immediate left into the hotel parking lot.

Directions to the Empire State Plaza Convention Center/The Egg

GPS Information

Enter 279 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY, as the address for the Empire State Plaza. This will bring you to the Madison Avenue entrance near the Cathedral Lot for parking. If you have parking questions, contact the NYS Office of General Services at 518-474-8118.

From the North: Take Northway (I-87) to Exit 1E (I-90 East). Proceed east to I-787 South and take Empire State Plaza Exit. Follow signs to Visitors parking area—V-Lot.

From the South: Take New York State Thruway to Exit 23 (Albany)—straight through toll booth to I-787; then take Empire State Plaza Exit. Follow signs to Visitors parking area—V-Lot.

From the East: Take I-90 and cross Hudson River. Take Exit to I-787 south, along river. Take Empire State Plaza Exit and follow signs to Visitors parking area—V-Lot.

From the West: Take New York State Thruway to Exit 24 (Albany). Proceed east on I-90 to I-787 South, along river. Take Empire State Plaza Exit and follow signs to Visitors parking area—V-Lot.

Parking at the Empire State Plaza—V-Lot

The Empire State Plaza exit ramp from I-787 leads directly into the underground parking facilities of the complex. There is a charge for parking in the V-Lot. Parking is on a first-come basis. Also, due to increased security, all adults in cars parking at the Empire State Plaza must show a picture ID.

When parking, please note the location of your space. Numbers help identify the sections of the parking facility.

Any elevator in the parking area will bring you to the concourse level of the Plaza. Note the location of the elevator at the concourse level to assist you in finding your vehicle later.

Please note:

Accessible parking is available in the V-Lot, but oversized vehicles cannot be accommodated due to the 6½-foot height limitation of this underground facility (see Cathedral Lot information).

Additional Visitor Parking at the Cathedral Lot on Madison Avenue

The Cathedral Lot is located just south of the Empire State Plaza on Madison Avenue and is within easy walking distance of the Plaza’s main concourse level, which leads to the Convention Center. If the V-Lot is full, proceed around the bend and turn right into P-1 South. Go to the left following the sign for additional visitor parking. Proceed through a small tunnel (known in Albany as the mouse hole), continue to the end, and turn right onto Madison Avenue. Then make a quick left into the lot. (It’s right in-between the Cathedral and the NYS Museum.) There is a charge for parking in this lot.

Once you have parked, you will enter the Empire State Plaza directly across from the entrance to the NYS Museum. The entrance is under cover. Once inside, proceed straight, following signs for The Egg, Convention Center, and Excelsior College Commencement.

Please note:

Accessible parking and parking for oversized vehicles is available in the Cathedral Lot. After parking, visitors using wheelchairs should cross Madison Avenue and enter the glass doors to the Empire State Plaza. Take the elevator on the right to the concourse level. Follow signs for The Egg, Convention Center, and Excelsior College Commencement.



WWW.EXCELSIOR.EDU/COMMENCEMENT