COMMENCEMENT
OF EXCELSIOR COLLEGE

Friday, July 14, 2017, 3:00 PM
Empire State Plaza Convention Hall
Albany, New York
NOTE: Commencement is a family-oriented event. We anticipate the ceremony lasting approximately two hours. If you or any of your family members, especially young children, need to stretch during the ceremony, the ushers will be happy to open a door for you as there are plenty of wide-open spaces throughout the hallways of the Convention Center. In addition, the ceremony will be playing live on a television monitor in the hallway outside the Convention Hall.
**Welcome**

**Processional**
“Pomp and Circumstance”

**Opening of Commencement**
Jerry L. Neff
Chair, Excelsior College Board of Trustees

**Musical Rendition**
“The Star-Spangled Banner”
Meghan Hinkley-Forcier
Senior Academic Advisor

**Invocation**
Sharon DeMartini
Faculty Program Director for Special Projects
Office of the Provost

**Presidential Inauguration**
Jerry L. Neff Presiding

**Presentation of the President**
Helen Benjamin, Trustee, and David Oliker, Trustee

**Charge to the President & Investiture**
Jerry L. Neff

**President’s Address**
James N. Baldwin

*For the biography of President Baldwin, see page 4.*

**Awarding of President’s Medal**
James N. Baldwin

*Presenting to:*
The Honorable Betty A. Rosa
Chancellor, New York State Board of Regents

*For the biography of the President’s Medal recipient, see page 5.*
Graduate Address
Lucinda Rost
Master of Arts ’17
Bachelor of Science ’02

Awarding of Honorary Degrees
Jerry L. Neff
Presenting to:
Carolyn Y. Woo
Former President & CEO, Catholic Relief Services
Doctor of Humane Letters (Honoris Causa)
Presented by:
William G. Harris, Trustee, and Garry Jaunal, Trustee

Presenting to:
Karen Cox
Executive Vice President & COO, Children’s Mercy-Kansas City
V. Fred Burry, MD, and Sandra Hobart Burry
Chair in Nursing Advocacy and Leadership
Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa)
Presented by:
Debbie Hatmaker, Trustee, and Pamela Tate, Trustee

For biographies of the honorary degree recipients, see pages 6–7.

Commencement Address
Karen Cox

Awarding of Degrees
Presentation of Degree Candidates
Deborah Sopczyk
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Conferring of Degrees
Jerry L. Neff
Awards of Degrees
Jerry L. Neff, Deborah Sopczyk, and Academic Deans

Master’s graduates are hooded as they approach the stage.

Members of the Alumni Leadership Council, Shelia Scott, BS ’02, and Jeremy Kane Tomlin, BS ’12, MS ’14, greet the graduates, offering them a small gift to recognize their passage into the ranks of alumni.

Conclusion

Closing Remarks
Jerry L. Neff

Recessional
“Pomp and Circumstance”

The flags on the stage are symbols of the many nations represented by this year’s graduates. Flags include:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Gibraltar</th>
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Reception
We request that guests remain seated until the conclusion of the recessional.

Gathering Spaces
During the reception, please visit the Schools of Business & Technology, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Nursing, and Public Service, as well as the Alumni Association, under their respective banners.
James N. Baldwin, JD, EdD, was appointed president of Excelsior College in October 2016. His administration is focused on providing adult learners with continuing education, degree completion, and career readiness opportunities while affirming the institution’s commitment to its core values of academic integrity, accessibility, and affordability.

Baldwin joined the College in September 2014 to serve as the institution’s executive vice president, bringing extensive leadership experience, professional credentials, and a highly regarded reputation to the position. Prior to arriving at Excelsior, he served as CEO and district superintendent for Questar III BOCES, where he led the agency in the development of innovative and cost-saving programs and services and was responsible for the oversight of 23 school districts in the region on behalf of the commissioner of education. He also served 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. He is admitted to the bar in New York State and the U.S District Court.

Baldwin is Excelsior’s third president since its founding in 1971.

A graduate of Union College with a BA in Political Science, Baldwin earned a JD from Albany Law School and a EdD in Organization and Leadership from Columbia University, Teachers College.
Betty A. Rosa, EdD, was elected as chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents by her fellow Regents in March 2016. Prior to her current role, she worked as a bilingual teacher and reading coordinator in the New York City school system; assistant principal; principal in special education; principal of I.S. 218, a full-service community school in partnership with the Children’s Aid Society; and superintendent of Community School District 8 in the Bronx.

District 8 consisted of approximately 25,000 students and 30 schools encompassing neighborhoods of the South Bronx, including Soundview and Hunts Point and the northeast section of the Bronx known as Throgs Neck. One of the schools Rosa founded, M.S. 101 (Maritime Academy for Science and Technology), became the No. 1 middle school in the City of New York based on New York State examination results. Rosa also served as the senior superintendent of the Bronx.

Rosa has taught graduate-level courses in Education of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Children and Due Process: The Law and the Handicapped, and currently teaches Applied and Action Research to doctoral students.

Rosa has received many awards for her outstanding service and leadership, including the Champions of Education Award from the Alliance for Quality Education, the Woman of the Year Award from the New York League of Puerto Rican Women, the Latina of the Year Award from the Annual SOMOS Conference, and the Outstanding Leadership Award from the International Conference on Education, Sustainable Development, Leadership, and Policy.

Born in New York City but raised for a time in Puerto Rico, Rosa received a BA in psychology from the City College of New York, earned two Master of Science in Education degrees (Administration and Supervision, and Bilingual Education) from the City University of New York, and received an EdM and EdD in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy through the Urban Superintendents Program at Harvard University.
Carolyn Y. Woo, PhD, is the former president & CEO of Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. Previous positions include dean of the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business and associate executive vice president for academic affairs at Purdue University. She was born and raised in Hong Kong and immigrated to the United States to attend Purdue University, where she received her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degrees.

Woo was the first female dean to chair the accreditation body for business schools (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and directed its Peace Through Commerce initiative. She currently sits on the boards of Aileron Foundation; Catholic University of America; Archdiocese of Baltimore Independent Child Abuse Review Board; Migration & Refugee Services, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and the International Policy Committee, United States of Conference of Catholic Bishops.


Representing CRS, Woo was featured in the May/June 2013 issue of Foreign Policy as one of the 500 Most Powerful people on the planet and one of only 33 in the category of “a force for good.”
Karen Cox

Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FACHE, FAAN, is executive vice president and COO of Children’s Mercy–Kansas City, an independent, academic medical center in Missouri. She also serves as assistant dean for Clinical Partnerships at the University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC), and in 2015 was named the inaugural endowed chair for the V. Fred Burry, MD, and Sandra Hobart Burry Chair in Nursing Advocacy and Leadership to recognize her local and national advocacy and leadership work.

Cox was elected to a two-year term as president-elect of the American Academy of Nursing, followed by a two-year term as president (2015–2019). Previously, she was elected to the American Hospital Association, Section on Maternal and Child Health Governing Council, and appointed to the Children’s Hospital Association, Child Health Committee.

She was named a Fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship Program, and is also a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives. Cox was appointed to a term on the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice, U.S. Health, and Human Services, and has served as board chair of the National Initiative for Children’s Health Quality. She has also served as board member and chair of the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City board of directors, a $400 million foundation dedicated to serving the underinsured and uninsured in the Kansas City area. Cox is a member of the UMKC Board of Trustees.

Cox has contributed articles to publications including Modern Healthcare, American Journal of Nursing, Nursing Economics, Seminars for Nurse Managers, Journal of Nursing Administration, Nursing Leadership Forum, Nursing Administration Quarterly, and Journal of Public Health Nursing.

Cox has an associate degree in nursing from Excelsior College, a BSN from the University of Kansas, and an MSN and PhD from UMKC.

In 2006, she received the Carrie B. Lenburg Award, an award given to Excelsior alumni in recognition of their commitment and contributions to nursing education and for their academic and professional accomplishments.
Graduate Awards
The Graduate Awards were presented at the Awards Convocation on July 13, 2017.

Center for Educational Measurement Award
This award is presented to a graduate who demonstrates excellence on Excelsior College Examinations or UExcel exams while using those exams to fulfill a substantial part of their degree requirements.

SEAN MACK
Bachelor of Science

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.

KRISTI KAYE BARFIELD
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.

LEON MICHAEL BANTA
Bachelor of Professional Studies

RONALD D. FLICK
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.

PATRICIO CARDONAVEGA
Bachelor of Science
Graduate Awards

Dwayn Hanford Award
This award is presented in recognition of Excelsior College alumnus Dwayn Hanford. As current president of the Excelsior College Alumni Leadership Council, a past C. Wayne Williams Award recipient, and adjunct instructor for the School of Public Service, Hanford is a strong advocate and ally to the school and the mission to educate 21st-century public sector leaders and citizens. The recipient of the Dwayn Hanford Award has completed an undergraduate degree from the School of Public Service with academic excellence and significant community involvement.

JOSEPH JAMES DAVERN
Bachelor of Science

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, Kinsinger built upon his earlier relationship with the College as a vice president of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. While at the Foundation, 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.

STEVEN BURN
Associate in Applied 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.

ROBERT C. MERCER
Bachelor of Science

Dr. Robert L. Long Award for Academic Excellence in Nuclear Engineering Technology
The Dr. Robert L. Long Award for Academic Excellence in Nuclear Engineering Technology was created in recognition of Dr. Long's service and contribution to Excelsior College. He was regarded as an expert in nuclear education and a proponent of the link between training and education and the safe operation of nuclear facilities. Students selected for this award must work in the nuclear power industry, be a member of the American Nuclear Society, and be nominated by faculty in the nuclear engineering technology program.

JOANNA LEW
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.

CHARLES DAVID LEVI WALLACE
Bachelor of Science

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 program in nursing and has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and excellence in all of the nursing courses, including the capstone course.

LISA S. HARVEY
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.

WALTER W. MALONE
Bachelor of Science

Jean M. Smith Award
This award recognizes the leadership and vision of founding trustee Jean M. Smith. Smith’s career in banking has been characterized by a deep commitment to institutions that are devoted to improving society. Her passion for social justice informed her work with the College, first as an overseer and later as a trustee, as she worked to support its students. The award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding academic and professional achievement in the world of business.

BRIANNA C. SHEARER
Associate in Applied Science

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.

TIMOTHY ABBOTT
nominated by
MONICA ABBOTT
Master of Science

Biographies of all award recipients are available at excelsior.edu/commencement.
The mission of the Excelsior College Alumni Association is to foster a sense of identity and community among graduates, students, and the College. The Association is committed to advocating for the interests of alumni and supporting the College’s mission of access, excellence, and diversity. The Association receives leadership from an Alumni Leadership Council selected by popular vote of alumni peers.

Alumni Leadership Council of the Excelsior College Alumni Association

Mark A. Bowman, BS ’00, Texas
Sterling Brown, AS ’96, BS ’98, Massachusetts
Sandra E. Butterfield, BS ’86, California
Michael Gonzales, BS ’04, South Carolina*
Jonathan Green, AS ’09, BS ’12, New York*
Dwayn Hanford, BS ’05, Virginia
Edgar Montalvo, BS ’97, Illinois
Alton Chris Nelms, BA ’86, Ohio*
Shelia Scott, BS ’02, Florida
J. Kane Tomlin, BS ’12, MS ’14, Florida
Ronald Tosto, BPT ’12, California

*DENOTES INCOMING MEMBER
Alumni Awards

The Alumni Awards were presented at the Awards Convocation on July 13, 2017.

Alumni Achievement Award
This award is presented to a graduate whose outstanding academic achievements and professional, personal, and community contributions may serve as inspiration to other graduates and enrolled students.

MEGHAN ELIZABETH COOK ‘94
Cook earned a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts in 1994.

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.

JESSICA ROSE CHEVERIE ‘02, ’17
Cheverie earned an Associate of Science in Nursing in 2002 followed by a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2017.

Carrie B. Lenburg Award
This award is presented to a nurse who demonstrates a commitment to nursing education as well as academic and professional accomplishments in the field of nursing.

LEONA KONIECZNY ‘82
Konieczenia earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1982.

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

TIMOTHY W. CARLISLE ‘86, ’03
Carlisle earned an Associate in Science in 1986 followed by both a Bachelor of Science in Business (Operations Management) and Bachelor of Science in Technology (Computer Technologies) in 2003.

Biographies of all award recipients are available at excelsior.edu/commencement.
Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year Awards

_Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year awards are given to faculty members in each school who are nominated by students, staff, and faculty for outstanding accomplishments. The recipients exemplify the finest qualities of the Excelsior College faculty and are representative of the extraordinary and truly distinguished service they provide to students and the College._

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**Daria Byrne**  
*School of Nursing*

Daria Byrne, of Overland Park, Kansas, has served as a faculty member for the School of Nursing since 2012, teaching various courses in the graduate curriculum. She works full-time as the vice president of product management at PeraHealth where she works closely with technology, client services, clinical adoption, marketing teams, and external stakeholders to understand customer needs to drive product strategy. She has also worked as a registered nurse in a variety of clinical roles, including at the bedside in general and critical care areas, as a charge nurse in the emergency department, and as a house supervisor. She has a BSN and a MSN from the University of Central Missouri and an EdD in leadership and policy from the University of Missouri–Columbia.

One student has commented: “Dr. Byrne is always willing to go the extra mile to guarantee that her students get everything out of the course. She makes herself available through email and phone...She cheerleads her students along the way when life gets in the way, and she makes us as students want to keep fighting because she demonstrates such confidence in our ability to overcome and finish the journey. Her responses to us provoke thought, and promote an atmosphere for great discussions with our peers.”
Kenneth Leigh Desforges  
School of Business & Technology  
— Technology

Kenneth Leigh Desforges, of Riverside, California, is a faculty member and course developer for Excelsior’s information technology and cybersecurity programs, and has taught more than 17 courses for the School of Business & Technology. He has also helped with the revision or creation of 11 courses, served as a Fellow of the National Cybersecurity Institute at Excelsior College, and is chair of the faculty advisory committee for cybersecurity. He has many industry certifications, including CISSP and PMP. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology from Excelsior College in 2010 and a Master of Science in Information Assurance from Norwich University in 2011.

He is dedicated to the ideals of facilitating and helping adult learners, and truly cares for his students. Student comments include: “I have never met a teacher that is so understanding and willing to do whatever is necessary to help his students.” and “Professor Desforges has been fair, responsive, and consistent throughout my schooling and...somehow manages to convey a true passion for the subject.” Desforges does not hesitate to reach out to discuss teaching techniques or changes in the classes he has taught. He is the first to volunteer for any project that would help the College’s cybersecurity or IT programs. He demonstrates a passion for the betterment of the faculty development program and is willing to facilitate new and exciting initiatives.

David R. Foster  
School of Public Service

David R. Foster, of Culpeper, Virginia, teaches terrorism, counter-terrorism, and the capstone in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program. He is also lead multidiscipline engineer for the MITRE Corporation in the Social, Linguistic, Behavior Science Department, and he has co-authored notable research and engineering project publications. He earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and both a master’s and a PhD in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Foster began teaching for Excelsior College in 2008 and was deployed to Iraq in 2009 as an intelligence community social scientist. He planned, designed, gathered, and analyzed operationally relevant social science-based research in Baghdad and Anwar Province. His work there served to increase the effectiveness of U.S. Army non-lethal operations and earned him the Department of the Army Superior Civilian Service Medal.

Foster brought that experience back to Excelsior students, enriching their education with his expertise. He went on to help build the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program. As a result, students receive a quality learning experience grounded in theory and concept, and tied to real-world situations and workplace environments. Foster always receives great evaluations and the highest praise from students. One student commented: “Dr. Foster brings a plethora of knowledge, experience, and commitment to the forefront when instructing his students...I know of no other faculty person who deserves this coveted recognition more than Dr. Foster.”
Faculty Awards

Lisa Giarda
School of Health Sciences

Lisa Giarda, of Tampa, Florida, has been teaching undergraduate courses and serving as a subject matter expert for courses across several programs in the School of Health Sciences. She is a dedicated and skilled adjunct faculty member with her breadth of knowledge of health-care management and finance, and she is versatile in her skills and techniques as an online educator. Giarda has a gift for demystifying challenging course content by helping students realize that they bring knowledge through their life and work experiences. Students clamor to take courses she teaches even though some of them, such as Budget and Finance and Economics, may be somewhat intimidating. Students report Giarda is a “great communicator,” knowledgeable, works closely with them to clarify and instruct, friendly, and always available.

Colleagues have said Giarda is always available to her students and is responsive to other faculty and staff. She is a pleasure to work with and quickly adapts and supports transitions occurring at the College. She brings a great sense of humor, a wealth of knowledge, and a deep understanding of Excelsior’s student population to every project and course.

Giarda earned a bachelor’s degree from Florida State University, and a master’s of business administration and a master’s of finance and accounting from American Intercontinental University (AIU). She is currently engaged in doctoral study at the University of Phoenix. In addition, she is an AIU ambassador and webmaster. She has received several awards for excellence in online teaching.

James V. Holton
School of Liberal Arts

James V. Holton, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, has been with Excelsior College since 2011, teaching a range of upper-level U.S. and European history courses, including United States History I and II, The Holocaust, African American History, World War I, and the History Capstone. He attended George Washington University where he earned a bachelor’s in international affairs (1992), a master’s in history (1998), and a doctorate in history (2002).

Holton’s teaching enthusiasm and expertise in the field are outstanding. Holton is an expert in his instructional subject areas, including historiography and historical research methods. Holton is one of the School’s most innovative and reliable instructors. He routinely uses video announcements to introduce complicated concepts and explain assignments.

Holton has a unique understanding of the Excelsior student and has served as a subject matter expert for at least three courses. He has served as team lead for the history program and often shares his resources with colleagues. He is responsible for initiating major changes and improving the student experience in the current capstone course. Holton is accessible to students and is an engaging instructor who goes the extra mile to help students connect with others at Excelsior. Student feedback always includes high praise for his teaching style. One student commented, “Dr. Holton clearly goes above and beyond what is expected from an instructor... Communications were personable and fun. During the course, it was clear he has a passion for history as he used numerous examples from his own work.”
Dawn E. Wright
School of Business & Technology
— Business

Dawn Wright, of Mobile, Alabama, has been teaching statistics, quantitative analysis, and quantitative methods for Excelsior College since 2011. She also serves on the School of Business & Technology Faculty Advisory Committee. Her specialization is in data analytics, statistical consulting, and instructional design. She has a background in civil and environmental engineering and has extensive experience working in the business world in senior management positions. Wright earned a bachelor’s in civil engineering from the United States Air Force Academy in 1967, a master’s in civil engineering with an emphasis in environmental engineering from Auburn University in 1974, and a doctorate in instructional design and development from the University of South Alabama in 2009.

There are great instructors and there are exceptional instructors. Colleagues and students have placed Wright in the latter category. She is committed to student learning and innovative instructional approaches, and is remarkably capable of simplifying complex concepts. This is reflected in her many engaging instructional and animated video tutorials, leadership in creating a community of learning in the class, interactive discussions with students, responsiveness to student issues, and insistence on high academic standards. Her positive student feedback—in what is a challenging set of quantitative courses—speaks to her commitment to providing adult learners with an outstanding learning experience. Her colleagues believe that she performs in a way that clearly supports the motto, “every student counts.”
## Graduates in Attendance

### School of Nursing

### Associate

* Salomey Adomako, Vernon, CT  
Mary Antonette Albano, Camas, WA  
Wanya A. Alcindor, Elmont, NY  
Isaac Bimbola Ariyo, Lanham, MD  
Kendra Gina Asonye, Jamaica, NY  
Magdalena Arleen Astorga, El Paso, TX  
Rashemma D. Baynes, Philadelphia, PA  
Kanitha Stewart Black, Savannah, GA  
Michelle Lee Bogle, Spring, TX  
Mirlene Boursiquot, Bridgeport, CT  
Kenneth Ryan Brelsford, Agawam, MA  
Angela N. Cherubin, Long Valley, NJ  
Ricquel Kellee Clayton, New Orleans, LA  
Miriam L.E. Davila, Cypress, CA  
Elizabeth Kelly DeVylder, Wallingford, CT  
Edith Ndidi Ebirim, Houston, TX  
Tarra M. Epstein, Plainview, NY  
Bintu Faal-Jallow, Jonesboro, GA  
Lori Ann Foote, Decherd, TN  
Saly George, Philadelphia, PA  
Alicia Hicks, Lindenwold, NJ  
Deseree N. Hingle, Labadieville, LA  
Marie M. Huther, Enfield, CT  
* Melodie R. Johnson-Austin, Grand Prairie, TX

### Bachelor’s Degree Honors:
- Cum Laude (3.5 – 3.74)
- Magna Cum Laude (3.75 – 3.89)
- Summa Cum Laude (3.9 – 4.0)

This list includes graduates registered as of June 21, 2017.
Graduates in Attendance

Baccalaureate

Dawn G. Brown, Warwick, NY
Jessica M. Brown, Valley Falls, NY
Rebecca Lorraine Castle, Canton, PA
Jessica Rose Cheverie, San Diego, CA
  • Mary Joy Cohen, Poughkeepsie, NY
  • Lynn M. Coleman, Charlton, MA
  Renee Connors-King, Troy, NY
  • Sandra Ann Fallica, Acton, MA
  Mary Ellen Garrity, Lake Hiawatha, NJ
  Sashai Melesha Grant, Bronx, NY
  Sabrina F. Green, Royal Palm Beach, FL
  • Kathleen Anne Hazen, Jacksonville, NC
  Pamela J. Karl, Rotterdam Junction, NY
  Kimberly A. Konicek, Selkirk, NY
  Diane Jennifer Leiba, Hatboro, PA
  Yessenia C. Lopez-Ramos, Mansfield, TX
  Geissa Nyn Bereber Mahilum, Woodhaven, NY
  Kelly McSherry-Ng, East Meadow, NY
  • John M. Muchiri, Ellicott City, MD
  Jason Scott Norris, Brooklyn, NY
  Michele Marie Popps, Camillus, NY
  • Brinette Rodriguez, Hollis, NY
  Martha Sanchez, Clifton, NJ
  Julia Loran Stavris, Mansfield, MA
  Emerald Renee Williams, McDonough, GA
  ••• Isaac Yona, Brooklyn, NY

Master’s

Monica Lynne Abbott, San Antonio, TX
Jessica Janette Alvayero, Raeford, NC
Shannon Sue Argo, Rochester, MN
Robyn L. Bortle, Greenwich, NY
Jennifer Carter, Castleton, NY
Tracy L. Champion-Howard, Memphis, TN
Felicia Rachele Cobbs, Southaven, MS
Susanne Kathryn Contri, Rocky Point, NY
John P. Crenny, Huntington, NY
Denise M. Cronin, Credmoor, NC
Gina L. Cronrath, Richland, WA
Melissa Michele Gaudent Deardorff, Fayetteville, NC
Kathleen Marie Dobson, Beloit, WI
Miriam Oneida Dobson, Hagerstown, MD
Merri L. Evans, Clifton Park, NY
Trent J. Fackelman, Austin, TX
Kelly M. Fitch, Watkins Glen, NY
Katie Ann Fowler, Glens Falls, NY
Jeanie M. Frear, Vestal, NY
Dorota Freitas, Mineola, NY
James D. Green, Houston, TX
Melinda L. Green, Florence, KY
Lisa S. Harvey, Utica, NY
Joan D. Henlon, Brooklyn, NY
Sonji A. Henton, Albany, NY
Jennifer L. Hill, Brookline, NH
Cynthia A. Holt, Albany, NY
Leah Mary Johnson, Jacksonville, FL
Pamela Joy Jones, Latham, NY
Vina Bogar Kessler, Colonie, NY
Jennifer M. Laper-Ifferte, Ridge, NY
GRADUATES IN ATTENDANCE

Gabrielle L. Lawrence, Savannah, GA
Mollyann Nichole Lombardi, Delanson, NY
Eugene Daniel Silang Maca, East Elmhurst, NY
Joshua Andrew Malone, Troy, NY
Janella J. McKenzie, Lauderdale Lakes, FL
Lolisa McLaughlin, Albany, NY
Patrick Joseph Murtagh, Castleton, NY
Jemmia Alena Njoku, Baton Rouge, LA
Odilia Lum Nwancha, Owasso, OK
Bullo Bati Obse, Takoma Park, MD
Jennifer M. O’Leary, East Brunswick, NJ
Shirlet W. Oriakhi, Manor, TX
Laura Pfeifer, Ballston Spa, NY
Gina G. Picarillo, Troy, NY
Milagros Ramos-Campesi, Tobyhanna, PA
Michael Saltz, Washingtonville, NY
Lovern Shadwick, Delmar, NY
Irina Sinitsky, Glen Cove, NY
Ivonne Torres, Astoria, NY
Jody Ann Upton, Poughkeepsie, NY

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Baccalaureate

Diane Laura Amann, Rahway, NJ
Sheree L. Anderson, Gaston, NC
Sellinah L. Anzala, Hawthorne, NJ
• Temitayo Araba, Willoughby Hills, OH
• Kristi Kaye Barfield, Mount Pleasant, WI
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• Mary Ann Frey, Schoharie, NY
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Latasha Phillips, Albuquerque, NM
Kenny Ramirez Cedano, New York, NY
• Marco S. Smerkol, Brooklyn, NY
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••• Theresa M. Tague, Endicott, NY
Margie A. Washington-Crawford, Brooklyn, NY

Master’s

Jacara Monet Barlow, Trenton, NJ
Jamie E. Bocketti, Niskayuna, NY
Jessica L. Carmel, Selkirk, NY
John C. Chiwetoeke, Rensselaer, NY
Jean Dohan, Brewster, NY
Ariene M. Leon, Middletown, NY
Claudette Beverly Saddler, Brooklyn, NY
Shivani Sharma, Bristow, VA
Bryanna Shaughnessy, Odenton, MD
Shannon K. Smith, Hampton Bays, NY
Ashley L. Thompson, Watervliet, NY
Emerie Joy Jumawan Toyo, Norfolk, VA
Quintin Warner, San Antonio, TX
Graduates in Attendance

School of Business & Technology

Associate
Gary Bauer, Mount Laurel, NJ
Edward Blakshave, Liverpool, NY
*** Steven Burns, Quarryville, PA
Iziah Carthens, Honolulu, HI
Holly Germaine Dorsey, Blue Island, IL
Jeremy N. Fernandes, Brooklyn, NY
* Tamara N. George, Triangle, VA
Antonio R. Lewis, Burlington, NJ
Ernesto Tristan D. Madriaga III, Fayetteville, NC
Arlene Rodriguez, Raleigh, NC
George H. Young, Spotsylvania, VA

Baccalaureate
Wahid A. Ahad, Oakley, CA
Nadjina Alimova, Flemington, NJ
Brian Jay Anderson, Travis AFB, CA
*** Michael Lee Anderson, Grovetown, GA
Enrique Avalos, Riverside, CA
• April Leigh Balina, Conroe, TX
• Carl William Barr, Clifton Park, NY
Michael Beckman, Ladson, SC
Mark D. Bell, Bowie, MD
Jennifer Bos, Montezuma, IA

••• Robert James Brennan, Ballston Spa, NY
Robert Randall Brooks, Perkiomenville, PA
••• Brett William Brown, Brewster, OH
Duane Brown, Ewing, NJ
Rahzine Shawn Brown, New London, CT
Elvis Buckhalter, Chesapeake, VA
Jonathan Lee Burrell, San Bernardino, CA
Phillip Buszek, Hampton, VA
Melanie B. Campana-Miranda, Las Vegas, NV
• Timothy W. Carlisle, Martinez, CA
Don Franklin Carr, Jacksonville, FL
Jimmy Copeland Jr., East Brunswick, NJ
Henry L. Dabney, Fayetteville, NC
Wendy Dayton, Malcom, IA
Rohit Devkota, New Rochelle, NY
John Joseph Dewitt, Brooklyn, NY
Amber Dobish, Binghamton, NY
Aldaisia Delicia-Quientura Donald, Hampton, VA
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Johanna V. Erazo, Garfield, NJ
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Timothy M. Farrell, Fredericksburg, VA
Siesa D. Fernandes, Fort Washington, MD
James Rafael Finsel, Binghamton, NY
• Brianna Frisch, Gloversville, NY
Jose Alejandro Gomez, Peachtree City, GA

Associate Degree Honors:
• Honors (3.5 – 3.74)
** High Honors (3.75 – 3.89)
*** Highest Honors (3.9 – 4.0)

Bachelor's Degree Honors:
• Cum Laude (3.5 – 3.74)
** Magna Cum Laude (3.75 – 3.89)
*** Summa Cum Laude (3.9 – 4.0)
Graduates in Attendance

• Lynn Guimont, Otsego, MN
  Eileen Haniton, Indianapolis, IN
• Benjamin Hansen, Cottage Grove, MN
  Douglas J. Hauser, Oswego, NY
  Chad Michael Henry, Flower Mound, TX
  Melissa Henry, Binghamton, NY
  Stanislas Morgan Hilton, Rahway, NY
  Lisa Marie Hughes, Emmaus, PA
  Gregory A. Jepsen, Gloversville, NY
  Adriana Jimenez, Riverside, CA
• Warren R. Jones, Shippensburg, PA
  Edward M. Kane, Mullica Hill, NJ
  Lindsay Nicole Kinslow, Odenton, MD
  Joanna Lew, Royersford, PA
• Jason David May, Pomona, NY
  Abalo Meba, Jacksonville, FL
  Anthony Mercado, Virginia Beach, VA
• Caroline Elizabeth Metzger, West Simsbury, CT
  Brandon Michael Neves, Hoboken, NJ
  Chuck L. Nobles, McDonough, GA
  Patricia Lynn Onley, Willow Grove, PA
  Edward Pages III, Triangle, VA
  Dennis Ward Pearson, Oakland, CT
  Jose M. Perez, Milford, NJ
  Walter Pfuntner III, Scotia, NY
• Stephen Paul Phillips, Martinez, GA
  Rochelle Marie Prince, Schenectady, NY
  Mark Richard Reierson, Rosemount, MN
  Sheba Karen Richards, Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
  David A. Richardson, Sterline, NY
• Susan Burns Salina, Simsbury, CT
  Brian A. Shaw, Raeford, NC
• Daniel Lee Short, Waynesboro, PA
  Sharaz Tariq, Alexandria, VA
  Trevor Jacob Thurman, Clifton Park, NY
  Matthew R. Timmermann, Lone Pine, CA
• Danny Lee Townsend, Bennington, VT
• Sharon Rose Van Vechten, Saugerties, NY
  Joseph D. Varner III, Las Vegas, NV
  Bruce Villasenor, Washington, DC
  Randy K. Weatherspoon, Virginia Beach, VA
  Robert Vernon Weltzin Jr., Carney’s Point, NJ
  Howard Lawrence Willis, Ashburn, VA
  Corneille Zamilus, Irvington, NJ

Master’s

Abdulrashid Abubakari, Bronx, NY
Joseph Aguilar, Middleburg, FL
Amanda Natasha Nathoo
  Alfred, Groveland, FL
Paul D. Balmforth, Stroudsburg, PA
Natalie Betterton, Albany, NY
Raymas Nathaniel Cahee, Pensacola, FL
Franklin Casanova, Richmond Hill, GA
Joseph Steven Catour, Richardson, TX
Lovepreet Cheema, Lake Katrine, NY
Shane J. Clancy, Dubuque, IA
Marisa R. D’Aurizio, Schenectady, NY
Jeffrey J. Dahl, Califton, NJ
Taharvey C. Davis, Chicago, IL
Robert Nicholas D’Emanuele, Chesapeake, VA
Jason Monroe Duke, Ballston Spa, NY
Wendy J. Fasoldt, Mechanicville, NY
Edward S. Galvis, Pflugerville, TX
Frank L. Gelormini, Oakhurst, NJ
Jason William Glavich, Spotsylvania, VA
Mary J. Greenwood Ellsworth, Greenfield Center, NY
Graduates in Attendance

Miluska Guerreiro, Kearny, NJ
Jasper C. Johnson, Annandale, VA
Lyndsey Elizabeth Johnson, Adams, MA
Darrin L. Jones, Columbus, GA
Desiree Jones, Missouri City, TX
Silvana Koloski, Elmwood Park, NJ
Zeck Alonzo Lee, Herndon, VA
Dana Lee Libby, Sidney, ME
Roman P. Magno, Mechanicsburg, PA
Helena A. Mezzo, Mountainside, NJ
Jeremy Miller, Hurley, NY
Brittany Sarah Ann Neddo, East Greenbush, NY
Patricia Nguyen, Niskayuna, NY
Jose L. Ocasio, Pittstown, NJ
Cory Marco Palumbo, El Paso, TX
William John Pearce, Hazel Green, WI
Travis I. Ramdawar, South Plainfield, NJ
Cassandra D. Redd, Lawrenceville, GA
Gina N. Sacco, Albany, NY
Craig A. Schultz, Poulsbo, WA
Sherry Anne Sharpe, Round Top, NY
Kailey P. Soundara, Alexandria, VA
Judd Spitzer, Cocoa Beach, FL
Jenna M. Sussner, Rivervale, NJ
Nicole Antoinette Thomas-Williams, Rahway, NY
Temy Doming Tomol, Markham, ON
Jannet Torres, Hawthorne, NJ
Nubia Hazel Varner, Las Vegas, NV
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Savannah L. White, Greenwich, NY
Elizabeth Willard, New Hampton, NY
Henry Brad Wilson, Yorktown, VA
Samia Zaman, New York, NY

School of Public Service

Associate

Jennifer Vargas, Mohopac, NY

Baccalaureate

Ramon Luis Cruz, Fort Belvoir, VA
Caneisha Sharone Fortner, Chula Vista, CA
Glenn Michael Hyzak, Taylor, TX
Paul E. Joseph, Clarksville, TN
• Tara L. McConnell, New Cumberland, PA
• Karl A. Nelson, Lillington, NC
• Christopher Joseph O'Donnell, Painesville, OH

Master’s

Jan Louise Henessy, Delmar, NY
Stephen L. Hunter, Spring Lake, NC
Rogelio A. James Jr., Rosedale, NY
Jose R. La Torre, Fort Leonard Wood, MO
Willie J. Odoms, Lawrenceville, GA
Mary A. Orzechowski, Newport News, VA
Ryan Thomas Tovar, Richmond, VA
Graduates in Attendance

School of Liberal Arts

Associate

Ashley Jasmin Clanton, Suffolk, VA
Lashanta D. Jackson, Bronx, NY
Michelle Andrea Porter, Grove City, OH
Andy M. Quintanilla, North Hollywood, CA
Jonathan Rapple, Malta, NY
Joy M. Rennick, Watervliet, NY
Emmitt Robinson, South River, NJ
Harold Gerard Schalk, New Rochelle, NY
Natalie Spence, Philadelphia, PA
John N. Strasser, Evans, GA
Kimberly Taylor, Hamilton, OH
* Serena E. Watts, Watervliet, NY

Baccalaureate

Michael C. Bailey, Joppa, MD
Clifford Dean Barber, Spotsylvania, VA
Rita Baskerville Ward, Parlin, NJ
Arlando Bass, Selma, TX
Liana Becker, Virginia Beach, VA
* Ronald Robert Bennett Jr., Waterford, NY
Kristina Jenyl Brown, Brookshire, TX
Lewis E. Brown, Chino Hills, CA
Christina Marie Callahan, Hempstead, MD
Robert J. Campbell, Earleville, MD
Billy Joe Bustamante Campos, Lacey, WA
Patricio Cardonavega, Prince George, VA
* Michelle Catherine Chachakis, El Paso, TX
Nancy D. Clancy, Fort Drum, NY
Moldovan Andrei Claudius, Thornton, CO
Jeffrey Charles Crites, San Angelo, TX
Ray Anthony Daley, Staten Island, NY
Chad Edward Defoor, Colleyville, TX
Cody Deupree, Richlands, NC
Teena-Marie DiBartolo, Bronx, NY
Morgan Dunsfield, Bronx, NY
* Rachel Duran, Pottsville, PA
Kamila Epps, Landover, MD
Laymoun Lakee Ferguson, Mount Vernon, WA
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Franklin D. Lopez, Clayton, NC
Rena Lorkis, Lakewood, NJ
Sean Mack, Brooklyn, NY
Ernesto D. Madriaga, Fayetteville, NC
*** Walter W. Malone, Houston, TX
Thomas Martinez, Wichita, KS
Shain Larell McDougald, Raeford, NC
Ebony Catherine McLane, Houston, TX

23
Graduates in Attendance

Joseph William McMoneagle, Faber, VA
Teressa Monson, Magna, UT
Barbara L. Montano, Fort Myers, FL
Kurt Newell, Kapolei, HI
Nikia Javonte Newell, Kapolei, HI
Carolyn Nguyen, St. Louis, MO

• Todd Hall Parsons, Broadlands, VA
  Samuel Perez, Warrington, PA
  Andrea R. Pierre, Jamaica, NY
• Timothy Ryan Reed, Killeen, TX
  Mark Rickel, Middleburg, FL
• Marcy Teague Ricks, Front Royal, VA
  Kelly Noreen Sawyer, Rensselaer, NY
  Jesse J. Shannon, Ocean, NJ
  Anthony Sheffield, Rapid City, SD
  Daniel Ray Sherman, Virginia Beach, VA
  Raul S. Sierra, San Antonio, TX
  Deborrah K. Strugar, Schenectady, NY
  Keith D. Tarrant, Copperas Cove, TX
  Carl E. Trujillo, Sacramento, CA

• Abel A. Urena Luna, Elkridge, MD
  Kristen M. Velardi, Ruskin, FL
  Laura Patricia Viera Quinn,
    South Amboy, NJ
  Michelle Lee Von Sutphen,
    Schenectady, NY
  Joseph William Summers
    Wanlund, Elkins Park, VA
  Heather A. Wilson, Ballston Spa, NY
  Desmond Wright, Williamsburg, VA
  Susan Marie Yoeckel, Alexandria, VA
• Jessica L. Zamora, Fredericksburg, VA
  Kelsie Lynn Zuercher, State College, PA

Master’s

Samson Robinson, Abingdon, MD
Lucinda Rost, Sierra Vista, AZ
Emblems and Symbols

Mace and Chain

The mace and the presidential chain-of-office used in academic celebrations represent traditions dating to the 16th century. The mace, originally used as a medieval weapon, now symbolizes the authority of the university to grant degrees. The sterling silver torch of the Excelsior College mace reflects the College's logo. The mace carries designs that depict the degree programs Excelsior College offers. The Scottish thistle represents thrift, the acorn represents new ideas which will grow into great oaks, and the bee represents industry.

The chain-of-office similarly originated in a culture of centuries ago and has been used traditionally in ceremonies to symbolize the office of the wearer. Matching the mace in theme, the chain-of-office of the President for Excelsior College features the same symbolic craftsmanship and the College's logo. The medallion bears the College's name.

The artist for both the mace and chain-of-office was Kurt J. Matzdorf, Professor of Gold and Silversmithing Emeritus in the State University of New York College at New Paltz art department.

Academic Dress

The academic costume is derived from the garments worn at medieval universities. The gowns and the hoods were common at British universities before the 14th century; the square cap is thought to be a 16th-century import from the University of Paris. From the color and the size of the American academic attire, one may determine the institution from which the wearer received the degree, the degree earned, and the academic rank.

The associate and bachelor's gowns are black, knee length and have long sleeves; the master's gown is also black, and made with a long, closed sleeve with an arc of a circle appearing near the bottom, and a slit for the arm; the doctor's gown has a full, round, open sleeve and is faced with velvet and has three bars of velvet on each sleeve. The velvet trim may be black or the color representative of the degree. The black Oxford or mortarboard-style cap is worn for all degrees, but only the doctor's cap may be made of velvet and only doctors or presidents of institutions may wear a gold tassel on the cap.

The most distinctive feature of academic dress is the hood. It varies in length depending on whether the wearer has an associate, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree. The hoods for all degrees are lined in silk with the academic colors of the institution conferring the degree. The trim on all hoods except the associate degree hood is velvet and the color indicates the degree granted: white for arts and letters; drab for business areas; yellow-gold for science; apricot for nursing; and peacock blue for public administration.

At Excelsior College, gold honor cords are worn by baccalaureate-level graduates with GPAs of 3.5 or above having earned at least 60 graded credits and by associate-level graduates with GPAs of 3.5 or above having earned at least 30 graded credits.

Key to Academic Cords

Gold: Academic Honors
Red, White & Blue: Military Affiliation
Purple: Excelsior College Alumni Association, Contributing Member
Light Purple & White: Honor Society of Nursing, Tau Kappa At-Large Chapter
Burgundy & Gold: Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, Sigma Zeta Chapter
Gold & Green: Sigma Beta Delta, Honor Society for Business, Management and Administration

Graduates are wearing GreenWeaver gowns made in the USA from 100 percent post-consumer, recycled plastic bottles.
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New York, NY

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Alexandria, VA

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Cox, Matthews, and Associates Inc.
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Vice President (Ret.)
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Chase Community Development Corporation
New York, NY

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HSBC Bank, U.S.A.
Albany, NY

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IT Director, Application Service Delivery
North Carolina Department of Revenue
Raleigh, NC