

COMMENCEMENT 2024

Friday, July 12 Albany, New York

PROCESSIONAL

MUSICAL RENDITION

"Pomp and Circumstance"

MACE BEARER

Christopher Cassirer, ScD, MPH Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Gonfaloniers

Scott V. Dolan, PhD Executive Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Robin Goodrich, EdD, RN Executive Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences

OPENING OF COMMENCEMENT

Welcome

David Schejbal, PhD President

MUSICAL RENDITION

"The Star-Spangled Banner" Sung by Daniel Pascoe Aguilar, PhD, MDiv Founding Director, Center for Social Justice Chief Diversity Officer

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

David Schejbal, PhD President

GRADUATE ADDRESS

Sena Amegbletor, BS '24, AS '22

RECOGNITION OF ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

David Schejbal, PhD, President

Posthumously awarded to Norvell V. Coots, MD, BS '84

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Tony Spearman-Leach, BS '92 President, Alumni Association

AWARDING OF DEGREES

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

Christopher Cassirer, ScD, MPH Provost and Chief Academic Officer

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Matt Loeb, MBA Chair, Board of Trustees

Awarding of Degrees

Executive Deans

David Schejbal, PhD, President

Matt Loeb, MBA, Chair, Board of Trustees

Christopher Cassirer, ScD, MPH, Provost and Chief Academic Officer

PRESENTATION OF ALUMNI TORCH

Jennifer M. Gentry, MS '15, BS '11, AS '04 Member, Board of Trustees

> Kent A.D. Clark, BS '00 Treasurer, Board of Trustees

CLOSING REMARKS

David Schejbal, PhD President

RECESSIONAL

"Pomp and Circumstance"

We request that guests remain seated until the conclusion of the recessional.

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

Australia	Germany	South Korea
Belgium	Gibraltar	Sri Lanka
Canada	Israel	Switzerland
England	Japan	United Kingdom
France	South Africa	United States

Recipients of graduate awards were recognized earlier.

For bios of the award recipients, visit: www.excelsior.edu/commencement/graduate-awards/



Recipients of the alumni awards were recognized at the Alumni Association annual meeting.

For bios of the alumni award recipients, visit: https://www.excelsior.edu/alumni/alumni-awards/



Alumni Service Award

Norvell V. Coots, MD

Norvell V. Coots, MD, received a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts from Excelsior University (then the Regents External Degree Program) in 1984. A fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology, he was a distinguished health care executive, serving as president and CEO at Holy Cross Health and the Maryland region of Trinity Health for nearly eight years. Prior to his civilian health care leadership career, Coots was a brigadier general in the U.S. Army, retiring in 2016. Notably, he served as the surgeon general for the U.S. forces in Afghanistan and as the final commander of the Walter Reed Health Care System.

Coots' accolades encompass both civilian and military awards, including the National Medical Association's Scroll of Merit, the Army's Distinguished Service Medal, a knighthood in the French Legion of Honor, and the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for Leadership and Faith. Coots also earned a master's degree in strategy from the U.S. Army War College.

Coots is survived by his wife, Claudia, and two children.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Tony Spearman-Leach

Tony Spearman-Leach is the director of development and philanthropy at the National Academy of Public Administration. He earned a Bachelor of Science from Excelsior University (then Regents College) and a Bachelor of Arts from Johns Hopkins University. He has enjoyed a varied professional life that has included careers in business, science, technology, and the arts.

A member of the Alumni Leadership Council at Excelsior University since 2021, Spearman-Leach became president of the Excelsior University Alumni Association in July 2023. He has also served on the boards of the Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, the Montgomery College Pinkney Innovation Complex for Science & Technology, the Josiah Henson Park & Museum, and Story Tapestries Inc.

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences confers associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in the following areas of study: nursing and health sciences.

Associate

Maria Aldana Willique Allen Corina Alvarez Danah Dominque Arrington Allison Bader Myriam Belizaire Britney Bennett Malynda Corrine Berry Savannah Bertrand Anischka Timmisher Blackstock-West Melanie Bolanos Nelsi Rubidia Bonilla * Melliann Bowen Amy Lynn Boykin Shadea Bradchan Jason Bray Crista Brennan Carlenton Anthony Brown Emile Nathaniel Buck Christine K. Burman Amanda Buzzitta Alison Cacace Amanda Jean Callahan Daniella Capitello Edith Caporuscio Flor Carcamo

Natalia Cardona-Lopez Rakeya Michelle Cave Courtney Ann Cebula Nichole Ann Cedar Tiffany Danielle Chalmers Cassandra Marie Chasse Raynelle M. Chau Ashley Ann Chevalier Amahny Clarke Heather Clemente Krystle Colon Carmen R. Cosano Cruz Lisa D. Crawford Hope Crawn Carline Curry Marieclaude Damefils Folashade Davis Heather Lynn Davis Kaylee A. DeSimone Tiffany Diaz Kasci Jacqueline Drinkwater Linda A. Edelstein-Petrone * Danielle Faber Amanda Fanton Christine M. Feliciano *** Jeannie Figueroa Iisha Floyd

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)

This list includes participants registered as of June 24, 2024.

Latoya S. Forrest Caitlin Galak-Rivera Erika L. Gaznick Monica C. Grable Shellie Nichole Hackney * Marian Hargett Leah Nichole Harris Angelika Jennie Harrison Asionna Kiahni Harvey LaToya Harvey Queen Hayes Shane Hayles Kaysha Jackson Wilson Jean-Louis Christina Barbara Johnson * Elizabeth Joinville Jeremiah Jones Roseleine M. Joseph Melissa L. Juste Bidenim Claire Kabiya Rebbecca W. Kamau James Somoire Kantet Tsungirai Karuru Carrie Kelley Flavia Kikoyo Donna Lynn Kraus Theresa Kulesa Miriam Kwentoh Viola A. Lafortune Lubin Sara Landy Jessica T. Laskowski Thailia LeGendre-Hobbins ** Kiaira Rae Linville Vanessa Marsha Lira Krystal L. Livingston Sarah Elise Magnuson Sarah Mambondiumwe Cherise M. Mangan Sharonette Martin Maria Martinez-Flores Carol A. Martucci Crystal A. Mason

Shonta McFayden Heather Rose McGroarty Rosemarie Miles * Megan Lynn Milroy John Mirra Elsa Y. Moncion Jazmine Simone Moore Maria Elena Morales Angelica C. Moscarelli Joy Mufarowashe Moyo Lynette Murkey Ruth M. Mutaawe Natalie Noze * Ugochukwu Bills Nwokoma * Modesta Paloka Amanda Yve Pastor Tiffany Pearson Kisha Perez Jedaiah Perrier Jna Peterson Teondra Lynn Phillips * Nicole Porteus * Reba Quartey Ena Charlise Ragin Vanessa Ramos Courtney Ann Rapp Dawn E. Reynolds Amanda Richardson Keri L. Ritchey Lindy Rivera Luisa Rivera Raquel Rivera-DeBaun Latoya Roberts-Gayle Kelly Rodrigo Ann-Sheree R. Rogers Rita R. Roman Julyanna Marie-Andre Saint-Val * Aprilyn C. Sales Alyssa Marie Sam Jennifer B. Santos Annikki Savers Jeanette Lynn Schmidt

Vanessa K. Shawver Keyetta R. Shelton Tina Sibley Catherine Anne Sieligowski Darnell Smith Venecia Smith Robert Jude Sochia II Ebony Soto Clara Spangenberg Andrea L. Stafford Jennifer Kathryn Strawser Shanicka Striggles Shelniyah M. Taylor Sunnita Lattisha Taylor Martin Rachel Tenpas Rebekah Tobey Scott Topping Sherise Nicole Townsend Connie Jay Travis Krista Tucholski

Jasmine Tucker Thesa M. Vaughan Julie P. Vergara Rufina V. Villa Caso * Carol Wagner Antaeus Waller * Rayeann M. Warner Coral Watson Shari Watson Luzamalia A. West Sherice West Avonna Breean Williams Julie L. Willson Rebekah S. Wilson Angela Grace Wood Brianna Y. Wood Heather Young John Paul Yray Victoria Zippo

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- Sena Amegbletor Shazia Arif Kelly Anne Baker
 Patricia Braz Alisha Carberry
 Kathryn Nicole Dunklow Fernando Radhames Estrella Glenda Gomez Brandon Joseph Gravois Kindra Hart Neveta James Nydia Johnson Tracy Mapandu
 Shelly Rose Minthorn Jon L. Moni
- Tara Montgomery
 Nancy Njonge Leah M. O'Brien Otasowie Stanley Orumwense Sandra Iris Ramirez
 Noelle Elizabeth Royal Amy Lynn Spina Heather N. Thomas Nalisha Latisha Thompson Lillian Lashada Tyson Josue Valle Tracey Nicole Vincent Fatimah N. Warren Regina M. Willamson-Genwright Cheryl Denise Williams

Kevin Anthony Adams Louisa Adutwumwaa Afriyie Danielle Marie Alba Lori S. Bethke Kyle Dean Bosshart Inessa R. Bowen Delane Coleman Norine L. Covington Cheri L. Daly Georina Diaz Ferro Patrick Elkplim Senam Karen D. Florence Erin Giguere Josephine Golero Nakeyia Grant Sherry-Anne A. Harewood

Taylor Johnson Charlene Maria Joyner Jody L. Keele Shakima Lambert Sheila Mesidor Jervaughn Miller Mary Rose Mollica Jesquenia Morehouse Vesna Nikolic Scarlinig Nunez Doris Preslar Leveque Isha Robinson Angela M. Saunders Thomas W. Stark III Rachel Susan Tillman Aeysha Watson

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences confers associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in the following areas of study: business, liberal arts, public service, and technology.

Associate

Regis Elvain Bayou	Kris Lim
* Jerrylyn Budnick	Sunil Mahepath
* Thomas Daniel Caldarulo	Harley K. Meddaugh
Nicole C. Carr	Francisco Ramirez
Mya Chalifoux	Kendrick Antoine Reed
Jasmaine Clay	Keri A. Reeves
Ronny L. Dunson	Jodi Rigby
* Alexis Glass	Kevin Rodriguez
Alisha Samariya Hall	Johane Sidon
Dennis Ratha Kay	Loren F. Smithwest
Todd Richard LaPlant	Stacey Viele

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Amanda Curtin

Kaz Daughtry Victoria Joy Davenport

- Cameron J. Davis Natalie Nicole Davis Jonathan Madrigal Diamante
- Anna-Maria Dimitratos
- Harry Dimitratos
 Sydney Elizabeth Dimsdale
 Dagoberto A. Disla
 Kimberly D. Dove
 Christina Doyle
 Russell Glenn Dozier
 Aaron Drucker
 Antonio Lorenzo Durns
 William Cranstoun Duus
 Paul E. Dyjak
 Orna Farahnik
 Mustapha Fatajo
 Kevin W. Faust
 Charles Andrew Fernandez
- Angelia L. Fisher
- Jack W. Fitzgerald
- Casey Frankoski (posthumous) Gregory Freeman Bryan Galvan Roxanne Rose Gates Grant Jeremiah Gilliam Juliana Gonzalez Melissa E. Gonzalez Dearil Green Jr. Dominick Anthony Grimaldi Christopher Adam Hale Haley M. Hanson
 - Jeanine Haug
- Associate Degree Honors: * Honors (3.5–3.74) ** High Honors (3.75–3.89) *** Highest Honors (3.9–4.0)

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- ••• Summa Cum Laude (3.9–4.0)

This list includes participants registered as of June 24, 2024.

Lee Bernard Heavlin Stephen Hebert Adeesha Randula Hettiarachchi Juliana Marie Hill Nhi Bao Ho Twana Holloway Mendy Horowitz Charmaine Denitra Hughes Chris Hupman Ava Huss Katelyn Huss Laurisa Huss Stephanie Incorvaia • Amy B. Isett Myka Jackson Fatou Ahmed Jallow Robert Carl Jennings Shaadai Tais Johnson ••• William Jones Sidney McDonald Joyner Ernest L. Junious Benito Kabemba K. Mark Kennedy Anthony Kline • Adam Kutzner

- Adam Kutzner Omer A. Latif Daniel Seungki Lee
- Zachary Letendre Shanee Liggins Roderick L. Long Eric Phillip Marr Richard Anthony Martinez
- Mikhail S. Martynov Anthony Mastropaolo Mazen Mazraani
- Mark Byron McCulloch Mekaylah Elizabeth McKenzie Floyd McLendon Jr. Tyler David Miazga Zachary H. Montoya
- ••• Andrew James Moore Jeanisa E. Moore

Laura Maria Moore Paige Elizabeth Moore Rafael Morales-Rojas Sade Morris Donald Fungai Muchanyerei Heather Marie Murphy Shannen Nedoroscik

- •• Trimikia L. Nelms Quentin D. Newsome Duane Michael Nichols
 - Brandy L. North Jake Ryan Nuttall Lorelei O'Donnell
 - Oscar Palma
- Thomas Justin Parker Dalton Patt Bradley Patterson
- Tiffany Patterson
- •• Thomas Pedrosa Ana F. Pena Wilmer J.N. Peres Sherilyn Rosa Perez
 - Luz Katherine Pérez-Robles Gerard J. Petrino Albany Yanill Pichardo Angelique L'Amour Pitney Daryl J. Plude
- ••• Erica Quinton Hayden Raczkowski
- ••• Sharon Rimal Anita Roach Yessenia Rodriguez
 - Keith P. Rogers
 Nia I. Romain
 Anthony Ivan Rucker
 Yehuda Schwartz
 Aaron Christopher Scott
 Sonya Scott
 Veranika Shalamitskaya
 Amaya Jazlyn Simmons
 Indyia Simms
 - Ian Cameron Smith

Kenneth Rashawn Smith

- Margaret Denise Smith Alexander Kenneth Smyth Elizabeth Ann Smyth Isabella May Smyth Samuel Preston Snoots
 Fred Brinkly Spaulding Crystal Spencer
 Derron Spencer
 Megan F. Spittler
 Brittany Squires
- Jermaine Stephenson
 Walter L. Strine
 Randall W. Sullivan Jr.
 Sarcanda Mackeba Symister
 Steven James Szabo
- Lisa Tang
 Lahela Ah Oi Taylor
 Corey James Thomas
 Kendra Lana Thompson
- Hezekiah Wesley Tolar

Byron Landon Turner

- Taylor Kristine Vandal Elly Anne Vicencio Michael D. Vigil
- •• Lynn Vincent
- ••• Sarah Vitone Michael F. Voegtle Corrie Edythe Waarum
 - Derek Scott Walker Jessica Schuylar Walker
- ••• Lisa Ward Tamara M. Wass Sabella Anne Watson Nelson Joseph R. Westermann
 - Aisha Elisa White Wallace White
 - •• Benjamin Wiener
 - Chardanaye Williams Tyiesha Wilson Mya Renee Woods James Duncan Kurt Wright

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Thomas L. Ackerson Matthew N. Ainslie Michael Ajibade Natalie Teresa Albright Juan M. Aleman Sarah K. Alic Cynthia L. Balmeskis Merelin Victoria Barrios Shawn Lafate Bentley Rujuta Shirishkumar Bhatt-Ferron Calvin Francis Booth Timothy S. Bowman Sabrina C. Brown-Wilcox Robert E. Burns Yuri J. Camesi Carla Snelson Carraway Stephen G. Carty

Nigil G. Chichester Esther Judith Clerval Esdras Colon Susan Colter Brian William Cooper Quadedra E. Corey Brian Keith Cox Melissa Anne Cucchi Santoro Stanley B. Daniels Christopher Cera De Vera Daniel Deckman Zachary A. DeJoseph Krista Nichole Doherty Natasha Doliveira Monica E. Dooley Maria Teresa Dorer Tiffeny Dozier William L. Epperson II

Jenna Lee Fox Nicole Fredette Melinda Gee Todd George Sidney Gibbons Anna Girard NaShay Dominique Graham Jacqueline Griffin Luz Angela Gutierrez David James Hacker Corev Hale Riley Hanrahan Jessica Holt Marissa N. Howe Evelyn Jairosi Alicia Renae Jennings Jason T. Johnson Sheldon Omar Johnson Edmond Barnette Keith Tamara Shonte Knott Jose Laboy-Correa Angie Lewis Dion R. Lightner Latisha Lenora Lovell Tiffany A. Lowe Decarveus Giovanni Madison Luis Madrazo Shawn Joseph Maichle Gabriel Kent Martin Britney Martinez Richard Allen McCarron Ewart Roy McFarlane Larry Eugene McGill Phillip A. Meeks Patriccia Buono Mekuria Ortiz Brandon Darrell Mickens Rayees Mirza Emilio Moore

Gelberth Munoz Marlon Munoz John William Nagy III Nicholas Charles Nankervis Patrick Neelv Hilton L. Newton Tom Terry Nickson Jr. Cameron Pagan Jayesh Dilip Patil Brian Patsos Darian G. Patterson Jennifer Lotz Pavilus Bryan S. Pell Ulrick Mark Philius Samantha Potter April Joy Quileza Garrett Dean Roberson Jose M. Rosario Jr. Mark D. Russomano Jr. Megan Salavantis Royce Santos Shawn Cory Savage Richard Andrew Segovia Jason C. Sharp Cassie Snyder Zachary Spalding Lisa Denise Springer Ainsley Sion Taylor Jennifer Taylor Bonna Mae Teriele Tyrone James Tillmon Luis A. Torres David Emmanuel Van Clief Francisco A. Varela Anthony Vecchio Althia Wall Monik Riley Williams Kelvin E. Windham

Emblems and Symbols

Mace and Chain of Office

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 mace of Excelsior University features the University's logo, and engraved stars symbolize the meaning of "Excelsior": "ever upward." The design also honors the institution's history with an armillary sphere on top and engravings on the bands. The engravings include Scottish thistle representing resiliency, acorns representing new ideas that will grow into great oaks, and bees representing industry.

The chain of office similarly originated 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 of Excelsior University features the same symbolic artisanship. The medallion bears the Excelsior University logo.

The artist for the mace, chain of office, and alumni torch is Nick Rosin, a Master of Fine Arts graduate of the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Alumni Torch

The alumni torch of Excelsior University honors the transition of our students to alumni and symbolizes the light of their scholarship, leadership, and knowledge. Engravings celebrate the alumni community through the evolution of the institution and depict stars to illustrate the meaning of "Excelsior": "ever upward." The different metals used in the flames represent the diversity and strength of our alumni community.

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 size of 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, which is also black, is made with a long, closed sleeve, with an arc of a circle appearing near the bottom, and a slit for the arm; and the doctoral gown, faced with velvet, has a full, round, open sleeve, with three bars of velvet on each. 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 doctoral 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 size 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. At Excelsior, those colors are purple and white.

The trim on all hoods except the associate degree hood is velvet, and the color indicates the degree granted. The following colors are used at Excelsior: white for arts and letters, drab for business areas, yellow gold for science, apricot for nursing, and peacock blue for public administration.

At Excelsior University, gold honor cords are worn by bachelor's-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:	Burgundy and Gold:
Academic Honors	Alpha Sigma Lambda
Red, White, and Blue:	National Honor Society,
Military Affiliation	Sigma Zeta Chapter
Purple:	<i>Red and Gold:</i>
Excelsior University	Alpha Nu Sigma
Alumni Association,	<i>Green and Gold:</i>
Contributing Member	Sigma Beta Delta
<i>Light Purple and White</i> : Honor Society of Nursing, Tau Kappa At-Large Chapter	<i>Maroon and White</i> : Upsilon Pi Epsilon

Graduates are wearing GreenWeaver gowns made from 100% postconsumer plastic bottles.

EXCELSIOR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The mission of the Excelsior University Alumni Association is to foster a sense of identity and community among graduates, students, and the University. The Association is committed to advocating for the interests of alumni and supporting Excelsior'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 University Alumni Association

President Tony Spearman-Leach, BS '92, Maryland

2nd Vice President Steven Marciano, BS '18, MS '21, Florida

Secretary Ruth Lown Turman, BS '96, South Carolina

Members

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