



SPRING  
GRADUATE  
COMMENCEMENT  
2024

*Friday, May 10, 2024*

*7:00 p.m.*

Liston B. Ramsey Regional Activity Center  
Cullowhee, North Carolina



## UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Randall “Randy” Ramsey, Chair <i>Beaufort</i>	Swadesh Chatterjee <i>Cary</i>	Martin L. Holton <i>Winston-Salem</i>
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Kellie Hunt Blue <i>Pembroke</i>	Joel D. Ford <i>Charlotte</i>	James Arthur Pope <i>Raleigh</i>
Kirk J. Bradley <i>Chapel Hill</i>	John Fraley <i>Mooresville</i>	O. Temple Sloan <i>Raleigh</i>
C. Harry Brown <i>Jacksonville</i>	Estefany Gordillo-Rivas <i>Knoxville, TN</i>	Woody White <i>Wilmington</i>
C. Philip Byers <i>Forest City</i>	Reginald R. Holley <i>Southport</i>	Michael L. Williford <i>Fayetteville</i>

## WCU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Rebecca R. Brown, Secretary <i>Cary</i>	Kathryn G. Harrington <i>Gastonia</i>	Timothy J. Robinson <i>Canton</i>
Haden P. Boliek <i>Fayetteville</i>	Timothy W. Haskett <i>Kings Mountain</i>	Aaron Hoyle-Rivera <i>Shelby</i> <i>SGA President, Ex Officio</i>

## FACULTY MARSHALS

Mary Adams	Drew Carnes - Interim Chief	Leigh Odom
Basel Alsayyed Ahmad	Joy Howard	Charlie Parrish
Bob Beaudet	Scottie Kapel - Vice Chief	John Seefeldt
Chaitanya Borra	Terry Martin	Sarah Steiner

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the event of an emergency requiring medical or special assistance, please alert one of our student marshals. There will be no access to the arena floor during the awarding of diplomas. A commercial photographer will photograph graduates as they receive their diploma covers.

MAY 10, 2024

# GRADUATE PROGRAM

**Chancellor Kelli R. Brown, presiding**

PLATFORM PARTY PROCESSIONAL “Regal Procession”..... Clifton Williams  
NATIONAL ANTHEM.....Francis Scott Key  
Kennedy Cox, lyric soprano  
Bachelor of Arts in Music, School of Music

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS ..... Kelli R. Brown, Chancellor  
GREETINGS FROM THE WCU BOARD OF TRUSTEES ..... Kathryn C. Greeley, Chair  
GREETINGS FROM THE UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS ..... Martin L. Holton, Member  
GREETINGS FROM THE WCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ..... Allison M. Hinson, President  
INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER ..... Richard D. Starnes, Provost  
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS..... Alexis Harp, Speaker  
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR TERMINAL DEGREES ..... Richard D. Starnes, Provost  
CONFERRING OF TERMINAL DEGREES..... Kelli R. Brown, Chancellor  
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATE DEGREES ..... Richard D. Starnes, Provost

- Graduate School and Research**, John Hildreth, Interim Associate Dean of Research
- College of Arts and Sciences**, David Kinner, Dean
- College of Business**, A.J. Grube, Dean
- College of Education and Allied Professions**, Kim Winter, Dean
- College of Engineering and Technology**, Randy Collins, Dean
- David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts**, George H. Brown, Dean
- College of Health and Human Sciences**, Lori Anderson, Dean

CONFERRING OF DEGREES..... Richard D. Starnes, Provost  
CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES ..... Kelli R. Brown, Chancellor  
AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS ..... Kelli R. Brown, Chancellor  
CONCLUDING REMARKS..... Kelli R. Brown, Chancellor  
ALMA MATER.....Lyrics, Ernest Bird  
Arranged by Richard Trevarthen

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater  
Faithful, kind and true!  
Every son and every daughter  
Offers praise to you.

Hail to the dearest spot of all;  
Hail to WCU!  
Light and life and fond devotion,  
All to thee are due.

*Kennedy Cox will lead the audience in singing the Alma Mater.*

RECESSIONAL “The Sinfonians” ..... Clifton Williams

*(The audience is requested to rise for the processional and remain standing for the National Anthem and to rise again for the Alma Mater and the recessional.)*



Office of  
the Chancellor

Dear Western Carolina University Graduate:

On behalf of all members of the WCU community, I am thrilled to be able to congratulate you on your impressive achievement – the attainment of a university degree! What a pleasure it is for us to join you in celebrating this accomplishment. You have met WCU’s rigorous academic standards, you have done the hard work, and you should be proud.

As you reflect upon what it took to get to this point, please remember the cast of supporters who helped you along the way – your family members and friends, special people among the university faculty and staff, and many others, even strangers. Please take time to thank all of the important people who have made sacrifices of their own to aid you in your educational pursuits. Not all of them may have been able to join us today, but I know they are with you in spirit.

There is no day more special and important to the WCU community than commencement. We think about the commitment and sacrifice it took for you to get here, but we also consider the unlimited potential that rests in each one of you who is wearing a cap and gown. Throughout your days as a WCU student, we sought not only to equip you with the skills and knowledge to formulate a successful career, but we also hoped to instill in you a desire to help make your community a better place. We can’t wait to see what you accomplish, both in your place of work and in your community. Wherever you go in this life, please remember that you have a university family on this campus cheering you on. You will always have a home in Cullowhee, and you will never be a stranger here.

With all best wishes and congratulations,

Kelli R. Brown  
*Chancellor*



Office of  
the Provost

Greetings Western Carolina University Graduates!

It is my distinct honor and privilege to help welcome you into the growing fold of alumni of this great university. Earning your graduate degree is a major accomplishment. You should be very proud of what you have done in order to get to this point.

In fact, I believe that the lessons you have learned in overcoming the many challenges that came your way during your time at WCU will serve you well as you go forward into the next step of your life. Whether you look to continue your education or dive into your chosen profession, the flexibility, the adaptability, the drive, and the perseverance you have demonstrated will be incredible assets to you in your future.

You may not yet know precisely what that the future holds, but the skills and knowledge that you have received at Western Carolina University will lead you to a successful career – and will help you be a good citizen of this nation and participating member of your community. I know this from personal experience as a two-time graduate of this university. I would not trade my time as an undergraduate and graduate student here at WCU for anything in the world. I believe that you will feel the same about your – about *our* – alma mater.

With the utmost respect and heartfelt congratulations,

Richard D. Starnes '92, '94

*Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*



THE UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING RECIPIENT

– *Dr. Alvin Malesky*

Dr. Alvin Malesky, Western Carolina University psychology department head in the College of Education and Allied Professions, is being honored this spring as one of the University of North Carolina System’s premier teachers. He is among 17 recipients of the UNC Board of Governors Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

A member of the WCU faculty since 2004, Dr. Malesky has served as the psychology department head for nine years. He is a licensed psychologist in North Carolina and Virginia and has advanced training in the practice of forensic psychology.

Dr. Malesky’s current research interests deal with academic integrity violations in higher education. He has published and presented on the topic at national and international conferences.

During the past 18 years, Dr. Malesky has received several research and teaching awards, including the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dr. Malesky received his bachelor’s degree in psychology from George Mason University, his master’s degree in counseling from the University of Southern Mississippi and his doctorate from the University of Memphis. He completed his pre-doctoral internship at the Federal Correctional Complex in Butner and his postdoctoral Forensic Fellowship at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Malesky also earned a master’s in business administration from WCU in 2016.

Established by the Board of Governors in 1994 to underscore the importance of teaching and to reward good teaching, Awards for Excellence in Teaching are given annually to a tenured faculty member from each UNC campus.





GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER  
– *Alexis Harp*

Alexis Harp will deliver the primary address for the university’s Friday evening commencement ceremony. Alexis was chosen for this honor through a speaker selection process that was open to all graduating WCU students.

Alexis is from Durham and earned a bachelor’s degree in mass communication from North Carolina Central University in 2022. During Alexis’ time at WCU, Alexis was very involved in campus life. Alexis served as the vice president of public relations for the Graduate School Association, was a member of the Catamount Philanthropy Council and served on the WCU student hearing board. Alexis completed a fan engagement and fundraising internship for the Division of Athletics in the spring of 2023 and most recently worked in the Greek Student Engagement and Development office as a graduate assistant.

Alexis will graduate today with a master’s degree in higher education student affairs from the College of Education and Allied Professions. Alexis has accepted a position with Duke University as the assistant director of student involvement and leadership.



# WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY DEGREES

The university awards the following degrees:

EDD—Doctor of Education; DNP—Doctor of Nursing Practice; DPT—Doctor of Physical Therapy; PsyD—Doctor of Psychology; MFA—Master of Fine Arts; SSP—Specialist in School Psychology; MAC—Master of Accountancy; MA—Master of Arts; MAED—Master of Arts in Education; MAT—Master of Arts in Teaching; MBA—Master of Business Administration; MCM—Master of Construction Management; MED—Master of Education; ME—Master of Entrepreneurship; MHS—Master of Health Sciences; MPM—Master of Project Management; MPA—Master of Public Affairs; MSA—Master of School Administration; MS—Master of Science; MSAT—Master of Science in Athletic Training; MSW—Master of Social Work; BA—Bachelor of Arts; BFA—Bachelor of Fine Arts; BM—Bachelor of Music; BS—Bachelor of Science; BSBA—Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; BSED—Bachelor of Science in Education; BSEE—Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering; BSN—Bachelor of Science in Nursing; BSW—Bachelor of Social Work.

The doctoral degree is the highest earned academic degree in U.S. postsecondary education. It is always awarded for independent research at a professional level in academic disciplines or in professional fields. The doctoral degree is recognized as the terminal degree in most academic and professional fields.

The Master of Fine Arts degree represents the highest level of academic achievement in the studio arts and is recognized as the terminal degree in those fields.

The Specialist in School Psychology degree represents academic achievement beyond the level of the master's degree. The degree is awarded for professionally-oriented studies that prepare the candidate to assume leadership and management roles in primary and secondary education.

The master's degree represents a level of higher education and academic achievement beyond the baccalaureate level. The master's degree reflects significant and advanced training, preparation, and research in academic and professional areas.

Candidates for the baccalaureate who are graduating with university academic honors wear gold cords on their robes and are identified by the following Latin designations:

\*cum laude (“with praise”); \*\*magna cum laude (“with great praise”); \*\*\*summa cum laude (“with the greatest praise”).

Candidates from the Brinson Honors College wear the Honors Medallion. Candidates who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces wear red, white, and blue cords. Many students also are recognized for participation in or affiliation with an organization. Insignia for these recognitions may be in the form of cords, stoles, or pins.

To be designated University Scholars, students must have enrolled as freshmen and completed their entire undergraduate careers at Western Carolina University with a grade point average of 4.0.

† Designates candidates receiving two or more degrees.

o Designates posthumous degree.



# GRADUATE SCHOOL AND RESEARCH

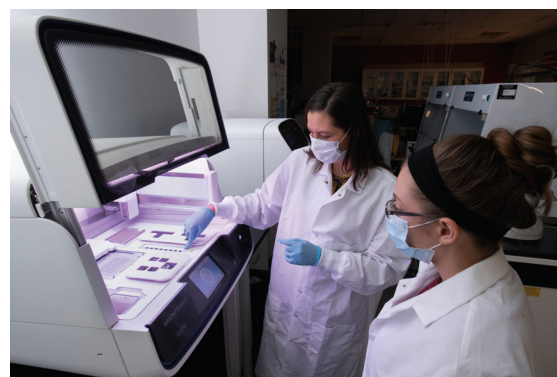


The Graduate School and Research collaborates with all six academic colleges as well as the Brinson Honors College and Hunter Library to develop successful graduate students in more than 45 academic programs at both the master's and doctoral degree levels. Graduate students come to Western Carolina University from across the United States and from international institutions to be taught, mentored, and clinically trained in a wide range of academic fields. As part of their curriculum, many students work alongside their faculty and staff mentors, teaching and conducting research that often takes them to locations across the mountains of Western North Carolina, our

state, and beyond. Grant-funded research proposals written by Western Carolina University faculty are supported by staff in the Graduate School and Research and are funded by federal, state, and nonprofit agencies.

Graduate students are often working professionals who become effective leaders in their fields of science, health care, business, education, art, and the humanities. They utilize the research-based knowledge and professional skills that they develop in their graduate programs to benefit the health and wellness of people, the environment, and the continued economic development of our region, state, and beyond.

# COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



The College of Arts and Sciences is home to the disciplines at the core of the university, including the sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. The college offers a wide range of programs in which students use innovative modes of inquiry to pursue new knowledge.

The college's departments provide an array of liberal studies and foundational courses to prepare students outside the college to excel in their disciplines. Faculty are dedicated teacher-scholars who use the knowledge and experience gleaned from their research to fire student imaginations in the classroom.

More importantly, the College of Arts and Sciences teaches the skills that 21st-century employers demand: critical thinking; analysis of evidence; and oral, written, and digital communication. The college's goal is to develop and mentor students to be educated and engaged citizens in a rapidly changing world.

The college offers a variety of degrees in 12 areas of study: anthropology and sociology, biology, chemistry and physics, communication, criminology and criminal justice, English, geosciences and natural resources, history, mathematics and computer science, philosophy and religion, political science and public affairs, and world languages.

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Robert Fairburn Armstrong**

MA; History

**Thesis:** *Bonnefoy's Folly: Perceptions and Realities of the Cherokee at the Crossroads***Catherine Renee Austin**

MS; Chemistry

**Thesis:** *Synthesis, Characterization, Antimicrobial Studies and Human Cell Toxicity of Europium (III)-Doped Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles for Potential Biomedical Applications***Joseph Mark Barnes**

MS; Biology

**Kyarra Lynn Beck**

MS; Chemistry

**Thesis:** *Analysis of the Volatile Organic Compounds in Grave Soil Using Solid Phase Microextraction Coupled to Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (SPME-GC-MS)***Hunter Chase Bishop**

MS; Chemistry

**Thesis:** *Quantification and Characterization of Larva64 Pimpol Activity and Endogenous Protein-Protein***James Michael Carroll**

MPA; Public Affairs

**Taylor Cook**

MA; History

**Mary Josephine Cope**

MA; History

**Thesis:** *Pride in the Mountains: A Queer Appalachian Anthology, 1970s-2020s***Ivan James Emrich**

MS; Biology

**Kristopher Charles Evans Newman**

MS; Chemistry

**Thesis:** *Classification of Cannabinoids Using Mass Spectral Data for Identification of Novel Synthetic Cannabinoids***Elizabeth Mae Fisher**

MA; English

**Braulio Fonseca**

MA; English

**Thesis:** *Falling Forward: A Memoir***Jonathan Richard Hillert II**

MS; Biology

**Thesis:** *Vegetation Dynamics on Round Bald***Mikayla Selima Johnson-Davis**

MA; History

**Savannah Reyh Mayer**

MS; Chemistry

**Thesis:** *Analysis of Biogenic Amines in Vitreous Humor and Soil Using HPLC-UV/VIS for the Determination of Postmortem Interval (PMI)***James Lawrence Miles**

MS; Biology

**Thesis:** *A Habitat Assessment of Rare and Endangered Species in the Upper Little Tennessee River Basin***Clarissa Mae Mitchell**

MS; Chemistry

**Patrizia Izumi Mombille**

MS; Chemistry

**Katherine McLean Moore**

MPA; Public Affairs

**Grayson Louise Randall**

MPA; Public Affairs

**Carter Forrest Ricks**

MS; Biology

**Melissa Ruth Rogers**

MS; Biology

**Thesis:** *Evaluating the Relationship Between Keratin Biomaterials and the Autophagy Pathway in Human Embryonic Kidney 293 Cells***Madison Douthitt Rutherford-Jones**

MPA; Public Affairs

**Megan Elise Steward**

MPA; Public Affairs

**Joshua David Ray Swink**

MS; Biology

**Thesis:** *The Ecological Role of Novel Paenibacillus Bacteria Isolated from the Great Smokey Mountains National Park***Harrison West Thweatt**

MPA; Public Affairs

**Todd Alan Vinyard**

MPA; Public Affairs

**Kevin Carlton Webb**

MPA; Public Affairs

**Joseph Andrew Wheeler**

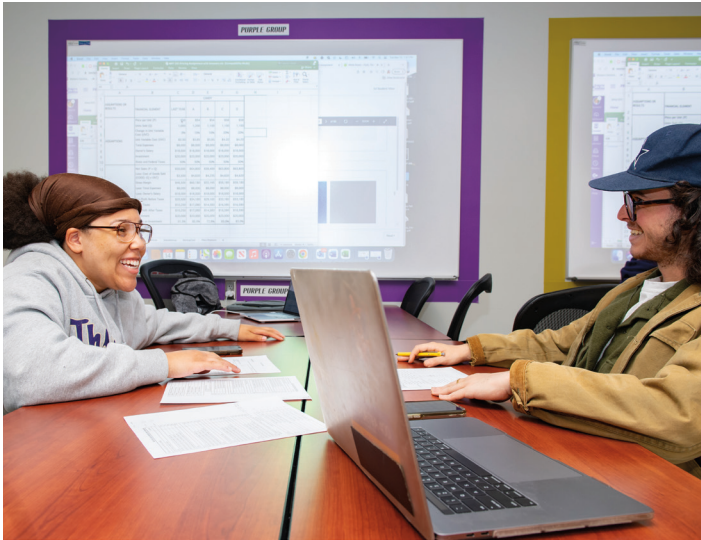
MA; English

**Thesis:** *Blot Out***Morgan Ashley Winstead**

MA; English



# COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



Western Carolina University's College of Business is accredited by AACSB International, the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's, and doctorate degrees in business. AACSB accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education and has been earned by less than five percent of the world's business schools. The college earned this distinction with its innovative curriculum, engaged faculty, and quality programming.

The College of Business provides masters-level training both online and at WCU's Asheville-based instructional site, including graduate programs in accounting, business administration, innovation leadership and entrepreneurship, sport management, and project management. Additionally, the college offers undergraduate programs in ten disciplines in Cullowhee and online, including Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees in accounting, business administration and law, computer information systems, innovation leadership

and entrepreneurship, finance, hospitality & tourism management, management, marketing, and sport management, as well as Bachelor of Science degrees in economic analysis and entrepreneurship. The College of Business serves WCU's largest portion of enrolled online students in five undergraduate and four graduate programs.

The College of Business is actively engaged in supporting the region through its Corporation for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, its Center for the Study of Free Enterprise, and the Small Business and Technology Development Center. Each of these entities provides needed research and business planning to support the region's economic development and its growing community of entrepreneurs. Through the Corporation for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, businesses can tap into lab resources and faculty expertise otherwise not available. The college is proud to graduate Business Ready® students: Business Ready® means ... Ready to engage. Ready to succeed. Ready to work! Go Cats!

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**Dolapo Itohan Akinola-Omojola**

ME; Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship

**Dylan Courtney Anderson**

MS; Sport Management

**Olivia Ryan Azzolina**

MS; Sport Management

**Fernanda Brauna Baiao**

MBA; Business Administration

**Kyla Antoinette Boyles**

MBA; Business Administration

**Eric Christopher Brown**

MAC; Accountancy

**Amanda Butalla**

ME; Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship

**Christopher Tyshawn Campbell**

MS; Sport Management

**Kristin Campbell**

MBA; Business Administration

**John Cameron Cooper, Jr.**

MBA; Business Administration

**Owen J. Crettol**

MAC; Accountancy

**Collin Samuel Davis**

MAC; Accountancy

**Christy Lee Dillard**

MAC; Accountancy

**Michael Gary Ellington, Jr.**

MS; Sport Management

**Tiffany L. Galloway**

MS; Sport Management

**Geralyn Bacala Ham**

MBA; Business Administration

**Andreius J. Harding**

ME; Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship

**Zakiah Raya Hashimi**

MBA; Business Administration

**Robert Edward Hengsterman**

ME; Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship

**Rachael Cecelia James**

MS; Sport Management

**Lauren Jewell Liddane**

MBA; Business Administration

**Ryan Dwayne Liles**

MS; Sport Management

**Robert Allen Luther, Jr.**

MAC; Accountancy

**Valentina Marko**

ME; Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship

**Quincy Darrin McKinney, Jr.**

MS; Sport Management

**Sulayman Nyang, Jr.**

ME; Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship

**Michael Alexander Penkert**

MBA; Business Administration

**Irene Mikhailovna Pivovarevich**

MBA; Business Administration

**Emily Elizabeth Powell**

ME; Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship

**Matthew Thomas Ridenour**

MAC; Accountancy

**Eddie Carlton Tuck, Jr.**

MS; Sport Management

**Matthew Rollins Turner**

MAC; Accountancy

**Peace Gabriel Usen**

MBA; Business Administration

**Jacob Voss**

MBA; Business Administration

**Gregory Bernard Williams**

ME; Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship

**Suyu Zou**

MBA; Business Administration



# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS



Western Carolina University was founded in 1889 as a teacher’s college, and the tradition of training teachers, counselors, and school administrators to serve the western region of the state, and well beyond, proudly continues. The College of Education and Allied Professions remains home to WCU’s School of Teaching and Learning, but also includes preparation for other human services fields such as parks and recreation management, higher education student affairs, educational leadership, and human resources.

In addition, WCU’s undergraduate and doctoral programs in psychology are housed in the college along with a new master’s degree in experiential and outdoor education. Students benefit from robust opportunities for clinical experiences and service learning with programs such as the Language Enhancement After School Program (LEAP) for

local grade school students needing English language support; the McKee Assessment & Psychological Services Clinic; the laboratory middle school, The Catamount School; and myriad outdoor events organized by Parks and Recreation Management, including the annual Cullowhee Canoe Slalom. In addition, the College of Education and Allied Professions serves the mission through regional outreach and engagement via two additional, unique programs. The University Participant (UP) Program is a two-year inclusive and residential learning experience for college-aged persons with intellectual disabilities. And, Project Discovery-Talent Search is a U.S. Department of Education-funded program that serves hundreds of middle and high school students in Western North Carolina each year through college-access curriculum, including career exploration, college visits, and adventure-based learning.



## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS

**Morgan Adams**

MAED; Counseling/School

**Ashley Marie Addoniso**

PSYD; Health Service Psychology

**Dissertation:** *Impact of Exposure on the Willingness to Work With Dog Breeds***Boyd Lewis Allsbrook**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Christina Lynne Armfield**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *Building Educator Capacity for Inclusive Educational Practices for Students with Hearing Loss***Jessica Marie Arocho**

SSP; Psychology/School

**Thesis:** *An Exploratory Review of School Psychologists' Perceptions of Their Role as a Leader***Roarke Wilson Arrowood**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *Open Educational Resources Project: An Improvement Initiative for Low-Income Students at Tri-County Community College***Cheniqua Chantavia Arthur**

MED; Higher Education Student Affairs

**Shelvia Horne Ashford**

MS; Human Resources

**William Brandon Ball**

MSA; School Administration

**Frank Morgan Barnett**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Patrick Christopher Barton**

PSYD; Health Service Psychology

**Dissertation:** *Development of an Explicit Bias Scale for Law Enforcement***Leah R. Bartram**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Mild to Moderate Disabilities

**Tammy J. Bates**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Mild to Moderate Disabilities

**Kelly Eileen Binderim**

MS; Human Resources

**Grace Hayward Wasson Bingham**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**William Charles Blevins**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *When Prayer Is Not Enough: The Mediating Role of Mental Health Literacy and Stigma for Religious Individuals' Help-Seeking Attitudes***Nathan Graham Bossing**

SSP; Psychology/School

**Thesis:** *Trends in Online Support Seeking Behavior Among College Students Pre- and Post-COVID-19 Pandemic***Brandy Shay Bowman**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *Sticky and Complicated: Removing Inequity in Academic Program Design***Breea Pepiot Bricker**

MAT; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Adaptive

**Destini Brianna Tamara Brown**

SSP; Psychology/School

**Thesis:** *Student Engagement, Student Wellness, and Sense of Belonging: Race and Gender Differences***Bailey Hewat Buchanan**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Mild to Moderate Disabilities

**Brandy Burns**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *Does Size Matter: A Comparison of Self-reports of Mental Health Concerns of Student-athletes in a Large and Medium-sized University***Janna Barton Carlson**

MAED; Counseling/School

**Savannah Curcio Carver**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Elementary Education/Literacy

**Gracie Suzanne Chapman**

SSP; Psychology/School

**Melissa Eileen Charubini**

MS; Human Resources

**Raynal Jhony Cherenfant**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Rebecca Georgette Childs**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *An Equity-Minded Approach to Improving Black Male Student Persistence at Four Corners Community College: Reframing the Issues***LaVonda Council Brown**

MS; Human Resources

**Jessica Irene Davis**

MAT; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/General

**Kayler Elizabeth DeBrew**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Thesis:** *Curating New Understanding of Outdoor Adventure: a Critical Analysis of #Microadventure Content on Facebook and Instagram***Nicole Dawn Dennis**

PSYD; Health Service Psychology

**Dissertation:** *Associations Between Physical Activity, Motor Skills, Executive Function, and EEG in Preschoolers***Gabriela Elizabeth Diaz**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Fallon DiBlasio**

MAT; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Adaptive

**Kelli Dodd**

MS; Human Resources

**Bethany Duke**

MS; Human Resources

**Raisa Dunton**

MS; Human Resources

**Matthew Engebretson**

SSP; Psychology/School

**Thesis:** *Examining Resiliency and Grit in School Psychologists with Concerns to Burnout***Anna Kathryn Ensley**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Mild to Moderate Disabilities

**Cynthia M. Ensley**

MSA; School Administration

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS

**Mikel Anthony Faasii**

MAT; Comprehensive Education/English

**Tatum Inez Feiler**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *Psychopathology Among Adult Survivors of In-Person and Online Child Sexual Abuse***Virginia Gayle Felton**

MED; Higher Education Student Affairs

**James Jackson Fox**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *The Impact of Parenting and Personality on Mental Illness Stigma***Annabel Owings Franz**

PSYD; Health Service Psychology

**Dissertation:** *Long-Term Effects of Emotional Maltreatment on Interpersonal Functioning and Emotional Regulation***Khalia Simone Frazier**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Abigail Gwendolyn Fuesler**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Thesis:** *The Value of Undergraduate Outdoor Academic Programs: An Exploration of Alumni Experiences***Andrea Fulle**

MS; Human Resources

**Joshua Galloway**

MSA; School Administration

**Sarah Marie Perez Gillespie**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *Ensuring Evidence-Supported Pedagogical Practices Through Instructional Coaching***Haley Grace Goller**

PSYD; Health Service Psychology

**Dissertation:** *Detection of Psychological Dysfunction and Suicide Risk Among Post-partum Women***Pricilla Leigh Greene**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Elementary Education/Literacy

**John David Greeno, Jr.**

MS; Human Resources

**Regina Zina Gylys**

MAED; Counseling/School

**Amy Christine Haist**

MS; Human Resources

**Julia Wells Hall**

MS; Human Resources

**Alexis Montana Harp**

MED; Higher Education Student Affairs

**Adam David Hicks**

PSYD; Health Service Psychology

**Dissertation:** *Predicting the Level of Suicide Risk with the MMPI-3***Riley Horne**

MAT; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/General

**Tempestt S. Howard**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Elementary Education/Literacy

**Ellsworth Jerome Hughes**

MSA; School Administration

**John Brooks Kasprzak**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *Enhancing Mental Health and Self-Care Through Student Mindfulness Training: The Case of the University of North Carolina School of Law***Karin Elise Kimenker**

MED; Higher Education Student Affairs

**Malcolm Vincent King**

SSP; Psychology/School

**Reba Jordan Kinsey**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Elementary Education/Literacy

**Jennifer Lynn Knight**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Thesis:** *Outdoor Learning is for Teachers Too: Discoveries for Wellbeing in and with the Project EXPLORE Community***Jennifer Wilson Kruk**

MSA; School Administration

**Michael Andrew Langford**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *From Acceptance to Enrollment: An Approach to Enrolling Black/African-American Students at a PWI***Brittany Nicole Larmore**

MS; Human Resources

**Lakeisha Chavon Lee**

MSA; School Administration

**Annah Lord**

MSA; School Administration

**Carolyn Lorenzi**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *Associations Between Borderline Personality Traits, Boredom, Mindfulness, and Number of Sex Partners***Laura Emily Lund**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Olivia Stephanie Marquez**

SSP; Psychology/School

**Thesis:** *Parents' Perceptions of Language Proficiency in Their Bilingual Children***Megan Ann Marshall**

MED; Higher Education Student Affairs

**Connor John Mathias**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Thesis:** *The Parts I've Lost: An Autoethnographic Study of a Transition Program Designed to Aid Former Wilderness Therapy Field Instructors***Jasmine McAllister**

MAED; Counseling/School

**Jessica Pangle McCall**

MSA; School Administration

**Wesley Clarke McCoy**

MAED; Counseling/School

**Ronald Rafael McDaniel, Jr.**

MSA; School Administration

**Kathryn Lucille McKeen**

MS; Human Resources

**Brett McKey**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Thomasson Burgess McKinney**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Benjamin Hampton Miller**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS

**Jason Ray Miller**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *A Framework to Increase Instructional Coaches' Capacity to Support Equitable and Inclusive Instruction for Beginning Teachers in North Carolina***Cherie Anna Montou**

MAED; Counseling/School

**Danielle Moody**

PSYD; Health Service Psychology

**Dissertation:** *Rule Violations in a County Jail: Associations With Specific Substance Use Disorders and Other Mental Health Disorders***Zion Zapora Moore**

MED; Higher Education Student Affairs

**Trey Morris**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *Disparities in Autism Diagnosis for Children: Impact of Race, Gender, and SES***Kimberly Spake Mostiller**

MSA; School Administration

**Stacy Ann Moyer**

MS; Human Resources

**Lauren Rose Muehl**

MS; Human Resources

**Lara Rebekah Mulligan**

MSA; School Administration

**D'Ayana Tajm'e Munley**

MED; Higher Education Student Affairs

**Rose Adeline Munsey-Kano**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Breana Raye Murfin**

MSA; School Administration

**Nathanael Nelms**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Julia Michelle Norman**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Elementary Education/Literacy

**Francis O'Brien**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *Personality, Pathology, and the Moderating Effect of Parental Loss***Shannon Elizabeth O'Reilly**

MAED; Counseling/School

**Gloria Page Painter**

MSA; School Administration

**Courtney Palmoore**

MS; Human Resources

**Dean Stewart Paulk**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *Supporting Transgender Students in Higher Education Classrooms***Rebecca Walsh Payne**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Gifted

**Amanda Kate Peirano**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *Influence of Victim, Perpetrator, and Research Participant Gender on Rape Myth Beliefs and Perceived Occurrence of Sexual Assault***Jennifer Morgan Penberthy**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *Trait Mindfulness and Negative Mood Regulation Expectancies as Predictors of Posttraumatic Growth Among Survivors of Sexual Coercion***Sandra Ximena Perez Olivares**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Gifted

**Christopher Joseph Perrine**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Rebecca Viros Reinstein**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Mild to Moderate Disabilities

**Hannah Sisk Reynolds**

MAT; Comprehensive Education/English

**Joseph Matthew Reynolds**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Andrew Seth Rhinehart**

MS; Human Resources

**Erin Elizabeth Riley**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Claire Frances Robinson**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Groce Scot Robinson**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *Objective Measures of Childhood Emotional Neglect***Shae L. Robinson**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Mild to Moderate Disabilities

**Shibani Robinson**

MAT; Comprehensive Education/Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

**Robert C. Rodier, Jr.**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *Sticky and Complicated: Removing Inequity in Academic Program Design***Emily Ann Rowe**

PSYD; Health Service Psychology

**Dissertation:** *Shame and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Women: The Impact of Evangelical Purity Culture***Suzanne Christine Schultz**

MSA; School Administration

**Tonya Melissa Shaw**

MS; Human Resources

**Keishla Shanique Sheffield**

MS; Human Resources

**Dwight David Shelton**

MSA; School Administration

**Craig Shimer**

MSA; School Administration

**Sandra Elideth Soto**

MAT; Comprehensive Education/Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

**Delrose Fredricka Stephens**

MAT; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/General

**Julia Agnes Stiles**

SSP; Psychology/School

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS

**Laura Bradley Thompson**

MSA; School Administration

**Mandy Mobley Tigert**

MS; Human Resources

**Cheryl Elizabeth Turnmire**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Elementary Education/Literacy

**Keri B. Van Fleteren**

MS; Human Resources

**Marissa Rose Vargo**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Rebekah Waldrop**

MAED; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Mild to Moderate Disabilities

**Evelyn Jean Warner**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Emily Watson**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Ava Elizabeth Weber**

MA; Psychology/General

**Thesis:** *The Relation Between Parenting Strategies, Parents' Beliefs Of Children's Emotions, And Preschoolers' Theory-Of-Mind***Rebecca Bryant Welch**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *Ensuring Evidence-Supported Pedagogical Practices Through Instructional Coaching***Kathleen Jocele Willi**

MSA; School Administration

**Dorian L. Wingard**

EDD; Educational Leadership

**Disquisition:** *Eliminating Black Maternal & Infant Mortality: A Retrospective Case Study of an Innovative Community-Based Public Health Intervention Model in Columbus, Ohio, 2018-2021***Madison Ramona Wood**

MS; Human Resources

**Paula Elizabeth Woods**

MS; Counseling/Clinical Mental Health

**Taylor Marie Wootten**

MAT; Comprehensive Education/Special Education/Adaptive

**Jennifer Le'An Yoe**

PSYD; Health Service Psychology

**Disquisition:** *Inducing Awe with Virtual Reality Nature Environments: Implications for Mental Health***Chadwick Joseph Young**

MS; Experiential and Outdoor Education

**Thesis:** *"Man Up, Bro" An Exploration of Masculine Performances in Brevard's Outdoor Adventure Field*

# COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY



Candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering and Technology complete their degrees having earned the knowledge, skills, and applied experiences through the college's project-based learning model, preparing them for successful careers as leaders in engineering and construction management. Your resilience and grit have led you to this milestone achievement in your life.

Students and faculty regularly engage in innovative partnerships with business and industry that assist to spur economic development in the region and beyond. Through the college's students and faculty, private sector partners have access to state-of-the-art engineering labs including the Rapid Center, a product development, testing, and prototyping center.

WCU's College of Engineering and Technology has grown tremendously over the last decade. The

Bachelor of Science in Engineering has seen the largest growth, beginning with 24 students in its first year and now serving more than 200 students who will move into high-demand careers.

The college also offers degrees in electrical engineering, electrical and computer engineering technology, engineering technology, and construction management. The online Master of Construction Management and Master of Science in Technology programs prepare students for leadership roles in construction and provide opportunities in advanced manufacturing.

The college congratulates all its graduates on their success and welcomes them to return as corporate partners and mentors in the years to come.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

**Clayton William Bardall**

MS; Engineering Technology

**Thesis:** *Utilizing Biometric Mouthguards to Detect Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries in American Football: Investigating the Correlation Between Brain Strain and Cognitive Function to Enhance Player Safety*

**Dylan John Bortell**

MS; Engineering Technology

**Brett Phillips Cannady II**

MCM; Construction Management

**Nathan Lilburn Carroll**

MCM; Construction Management

**Samuel Winter Cooper**

MS; Engineering Technology

**Brian Thomas Dempsey**

MCM; Construction Management

**Michael Kent Donihee**

MCM; Construction Management

**Cameron Golzar**

MCM; Construction Management

**Aren Hansen**

MCM; Construction Management

**Lucas Lombard**

MS; Engineering Technology

**Frederick Odoi Malm**

MS; Engineering Technology

**Thesis:** *Abrasive Waterjet (A-1212 Wardjet) Process Parameters Optimization*

**John Edward Martin**

MCM; Construction Management

**Joshua McDaniel**

MCM; Construction Management

**Grace McIntire**

MCM; Construction Management

**Robert Christopher Moore**

MCM; Construction Management

**Carson Boone Pardue**

MS; Engineering Technology

**Thesis:** *Evaluating the Potential Benefits of Converting to Model-Based Definition Methods in Engineering*

**Caleb Michael Rathbone**

MS; Technology

**Marvin Carlton Robinson II**

MCM; Construction Management

**Lance Ray Shallenberger**

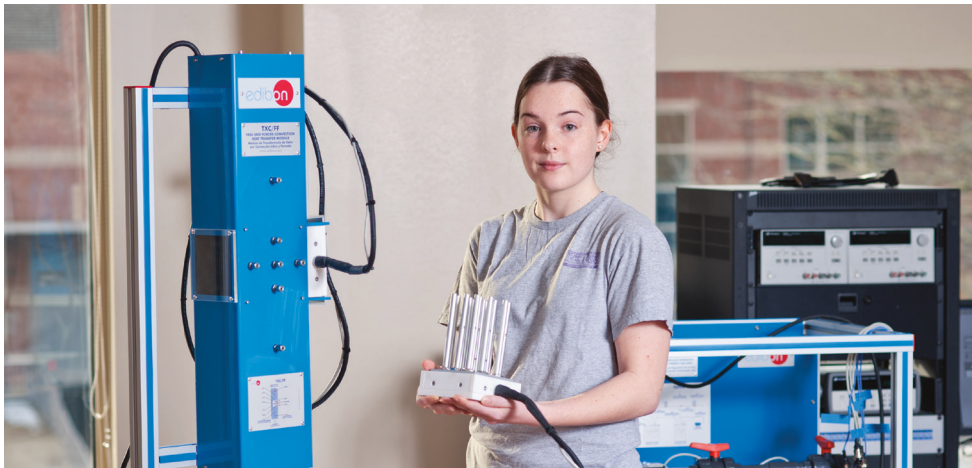
MS; Engineering Technology

**Christopher F. Terzella**

MCM; Construction Management

**Matthew Ueltzen**

MCM; Construction Management



# DAVID ORR BELCHER COLLEGE OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS



The David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts was established in 2007 to provide a range of opportunities to research, study, create, produce, perform, and present ideas and issues in the arts. The college comprises programs in Art and Design, Music, and Stage and Screen. It also serves the region through the Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center and is home of the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band.

The college's faculty are actively involved in creative work, performance, and independent scholarship. They provide individualized instruction to students pursuing studies in studio arts, graphic and interior design, musical theatre, television and film production, art and music education, vocal and instrumental performance, and more.

The college is also dedicated to being a cultural hub for the region, offering performances, exhibitions, and other creative arts programming throughout the year for the university and the larger community. Additionally, the college has a significant number of regional partnerships that help enhance creative collaboration and access to the arts in Western North Carolina.

The mission of the David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts is to inspire, educate, and train our next generation of artists, scholars, and teachers in the intellectual foundations and creative processes of the fine and performing arts while fostering excellence and artistic curiosity across Western North Carolina and beyond.

# COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES



Western Carolina University's College of Health and Human Sciences brings together a wide variety of degrees in fields such as athletic training, communication sciences and disorders, emergency medical care, environmental health, nursing, nutrition, physical therapy, recreational therapy, and social work. The college's students have the advantage of working closely together in an integrated, collaborative environment that reflects today's real-world holistic approach to health care. For example, the School of Health Sciences offers a multidisciplinary Integrated Health Sciences degree.

In addition, students gain applied experience at clinics and research stations on campus and through a variety of service-learning programs designed to bring the college's expertise into the community while showing students the importance of service.

On-campus clinics include the WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic, a sports medicine clinic, a family care clinic, a balance and fall prevention clinic, a pro bono health clinic, and the Vecinos Farmworker Health Program. Several clinics are operated through public-private partnerships with local providers.

The college is the proud home to many faculty members who are leaders in their field nationally and internationally. Their shared goal is to prepare students to meet the needs of the state and the region. Graduates achieve successful careers in their individual fields or pursue graduate programs for further study. The college also offers several master's programs in nursing, speech-language pathology, social work, and health sciences and doctoral programs in nursing and physical therapy. Many of those graduate programs are available here in Cullowhee, in Asheville at Biltmore Park, or online.



## COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

**Leslie Hope Allen**

MSW; Social Work

**Lori Anne Allen**

MS; Nurse Educator

**Nathan Walker Allen**

MSW; Social Work

**Hannah Caroline Allison**

MS; Nurse Educator

**Shakya Star Anders**

MSW; Social Work

**Alyssa Danielle Anthony**

MSW; Social Work

**Kayden Gail Antonson**

MSW; Social Work

**Anissa Rene Avila**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Konatsu Baba**

MSAT; Athletic Training

**Abigail Lea Badr**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Aspen Stevens Barnett**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Katie Fortner Barrett**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Taylor Barry**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Victoria Ashley Bartlett**

MSW; Social Work

**Kali Rae Beck**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Brandon Michael Berry**

MSW; Social Work

**Caroline R. Blackmon**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Matthew George Blanton**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Joshua Lambert Blocker**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Nadia Elaine Blow**

MSW; Social Work

**Chase Hogan Boone**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Thomas Seth Bouchard**

MSW; Social Work

**Marcia Emily Bowen**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Molly Catherine Bracknell**

MSW; Social Work

**Chase O'Leary Brokaw**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Olivia Paige Bryant**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Sarah Starkweather Buie**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Hannah Mae Bundy**

MSW; Social Work

**Lauren Elizabeth Butz**

MSAT; Athletic Training

**Jason Andrew Camp**

MSW; Social Work

**Christina Carlin**

MSAT; Athletic Training

**Justin Wayne Chafin**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Rebecca Adele Chapin**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Erik Chaplinsky**

MSW; Social Work

**Kaci Nicole Chapman**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Joshua David Chesnut**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Arista Megan Whitesell Clifton**

MSW; Social Work

**Nia Cook**

MSW; Social Work

**Sara Myrick Council**

MS; Nursing Leadership

**Jacob B. Culler**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Kellyn Daly**

MSW; Social Work

**Elise Maritsa Damilatis**

MSW; Social Work

**Jesse Logan Davidson**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Jourdan Davis**

MSAT; Athletic Training

**Tyler Harris Day**

MS; Nurse Educator

**Allison Karen DeSarro**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Kylie Kathleen DeTemple**

MSW; Social Work

**Ruby Elizabeth Dixon**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Caitrin Doyle**

MSW; Social Work

**Troy Anthony Edwards**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Bethany Pittman Eggers**

MS; Nurse Educator

**Leticsha M. Elkins**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Katherine Haley Epps**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Matthew Henry Ewert**

MSAT; Athletic Training

**Zayd Mohammad Fattah**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Alyssa Ann Fennell**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Sara-Marie Ferguson**

MSW; Social Work

**Jordan Micaiah Fernandez**

DPT; Physical Therapy

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

**Alexandra Renee Finley**

MSW; Social Work

**Marissa Catherine Forbes**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Morgan Raye Forbes-Robinson**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Skylar Grace Foster**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Camden Daye Freeman**

MSW; Social Work

**James Christopher Gaiser**

MSW; Social Work

**Damian Ganoë**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Katelynn Gilbert**

MSW; Social Work

**LaKeasha Jean Glaspie**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Chloe Alexandra Gobel**

MSW; Social Work

**Russell Herbert Golemon**

MSW; Social Work

**Olivia Leigh Gordon**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Erika Lynn Gosser**

MSW; Social Work

**Allison Grayson**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Delaney Ann Grazier**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Marla Kinlaw Greene**

MS; Nursing Leadership

**Brian Robert Hallock**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Kayla Danielle Harris**

MS; Nursing Leadership

**Rachael Bienias Harris**

MSW; Social Work

**Lara Hope Hartley**

MSW; Social Work

**Christine Anne Hayes**

MSW; Social Work

**Alyssa Yanez Heinzelman**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Bailey Garrett Hill**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Megan Homoly**

MSAT; Athletic Training

**De Sean Turell Horton**

MSW; Social Work

**Mickayla Danae Hulliberger**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Alex Michael Huntsinger**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Amelia Lindsay Kaitlyn Hutsell**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Lydia Rose Izzell**

MSW; Social Work

**Caille Jimenez**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Rachael Nicole Johnson**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Whitney Joy**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Johnathan Bryan Joyner**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Matthew Coyle Joyner**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Katherine D. Kaminsky**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Mark David Kendall**

MSW; Social Work

**Lydia Scarlet Kennedy**

MSW; Social Work

**Gillian Elizabeth Kerner**

MSW; Social Work

**Karis Amelia Kerr**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Kelley Marie Kidd**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Carsyn B. Kilgo**

MSAT; Athletic Training

**Amber Elaine King**

MSW; Social Work

**Kyle Alexander Knop**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Kallie Veronica Kressly**

MSW; Social Work

**Tess Lamprecht**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Diana Laursen**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Alyssa Long**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Kaia Kathryn Look**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Tracy Boger Love**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Amie Elizabeth Lumpkin**

MSW; Social Work

**Hannah Rachel Mabry**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Alexa Kay Marois**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Margarita Martinez-Lopez**

MSW; Social Work

**Rebecca Marie Marziale**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Hayley Louise Mase**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Jessica Lynne Matheson**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Kate Elizabeth Mattison**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Megan Elizabeth Mauzy**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

**Miranda Rae McCurdy**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Holli McRee**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Kevin Malique Mercer**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Kelley Jean Messer**

MSW; Social Work

**Rachel Anne Meyers**

MSW; Social Work

**Laura Susan Mikos**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Elizabeth Grace Milligan**

MSW; Social Work

**Charlotte Gaines Ming**

MSW; Social Work

**Devon Autumn-Michael Morrisey**

MSW; Social Work

**Donald McVey Mosher**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**David James Norton**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Rebecca Louise Odell**

MSW; Social Work

**Jennifer Palin**

MSW; Social Work

**Sophia Lorraine Palmer**

MSW; Social Work

**Marquita Aquilla Parker**

MSAT; Athletic Training

**Omar Octavious Patterson**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Lily E. Payne**

MSW; Social Work

**Marisa Christina Pino-Barreras**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Katherine Anne Plotz**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Anna Elizabeth Poole**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Timothy Prokesch**

MSW; Social Work

**Gardenia Rabadan**

MSW; Social Work

**Emily Anne Rains**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Colin Parker Ramsey**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Nicole Elizabeth Rank**

MSW; Social Work

**Julia Rosemary Reardon**

MSAT; Athletic Training

**Michele Richard**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Ashley Brooke Riddle**

MSW; Social Work

**Amanda Lee Riehle**

MSW; Social Work

**Andrea Nicole Ritchie**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Andrew Noe Rivas**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Kevin D. Rockey**

MSW; Social Work

**Madison Avery Sain**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Colton Thomas Sankey**

MSW; Social Work

**Emry Ann Schneeweis**

MSW; Social Work

**Anthony Seiter**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Tiffany Nicole Sewell**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Haley N. Sherbert**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Kim Benfield Silvers**

MSW; Social Work

**Lilli Randall Skeeters**

MSW; Social Work

**Caitlin Elizabeth Somarriba**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Emilee Brooke Speer**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Aliyah Nicole Stahl**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Grayson T. Starling**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Kathryn Elizabeth Strickler**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Chloe Erin Sullivan**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Charlotte Rose Surface**

MSW; Social Work

**Amy Norton Tatum**

MS; Nursing Leadership

**Joselyn Tartak Taylor**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Max Tevepaugh**

MSW; Social Work

**Lacy Thompkins**

MSW; Social Work

**Taylor Thurman**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Steven Nam Tran**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Jamisha Danielle Twitty**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Myra Tinesse Twitty**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Rachel Catherine Veale**

MSW; Social Work

**Pabla Vue**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Raegan Makenzie Waites**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

**Erin Traister Walters**

MS; Nurse Educator

**Gabriella Elizabeth Ware**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Erin Noelle Watson**

DPT; Physical Therapy

**Sophia Caroline Watson**

MSW; Social Work

**Tyler Donald Weber**

DNP; Nurse Anesthesia

**Helen Rochelle Whiteside**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Holly Ann Wilson**

MHS; Health Sciences

**Ashlyn Elisabeth Wolfe**

MS; Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Lily Y. Wolfson**

MSW; Social Work

**Peyton Noelle Wood**

MSAT; Athletic Training

**Jennie Whitley Wooten**

MSW; Social Work

**Elizabeth Catherine Wright**

MSW; Social Work

**Grace Maeghann-Harmon Yocum**

MSW; Social Work



The appearance of a name on this program should not be interpreted as evidence of graduation. The student's permanent record, on file in the Office of the University Registrar, remains the official testimony of the possession of a Western Carolina University degree.

## ACADEMIC REGALIA

The academic regalia worn by the faculty and graduating students at commencement are derived from forms of dress in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries in Britain and Europe. The clothing of the general population changed over time, but the earlier garments have been retained as a specialized academic costume. Academic dress in the United States is an outgrowth of British practice but is much more standardized than in British institutions. With some variations, the forms of the academic costume used by American institutions today are based on a code adopted in 1895.

**THE CAP.** The mortarboard cap, worn flat on the head with one corner of the square facing the front, has a tassel, which may be either black or of the color assigned to the field of study. Doctors in all fields may wear a tassel of metallic gold. Some institutions have adopted the biretta instead of the mortarboard.

**THE GOWN.** The cut of the gown indicates whether the wearer holds a bachelor's, master's, or doctor's degree. The bachelor's gown is a simple, unornamented robe with long pointed sleeves. The master's gown is more elaborate and many styles have slits in the sleeves. The doctor's robe is ornamented with three bars on each sleeve and panels on the front of the robe. The standard color of the robe is black, although some institutions have adopted other colors (Yale, blue; Harvard, crimson; WCU, purple). The white robes worn by the student marshals at Western Carolina University are an indication of their undergraduate status.

**THE HOOD.** The institution by which the degree was awarded and the field of study in which the degree was earned are represented by the hood.

The lining of the hood identifies the institution that awarded the degree. However, because of the large number of degree-granting institutions, there is much duplication, even though a variety of patterns have been introduced. For example, more than thirty institutions are purple and gold. The length of the hood and the width of its border vary in relation to the degree held.

**THE COLORS.** The colors of the tassel on the cap and of the border on the hood represent the field of study in which the degree was earned. These colors include:

ARTS, LETTERS, HUMANITIES . . . . .	White
ORATORY (SPEECH) . . . . .	Silver Gray
COMMERCE, ACCOUNTANCY, BUSINESS . . . . .	Drab
PHILOSOPHY . . . . .	Dark Blue
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT . . . . .	Drab
PHYSICAL EDUCATION . . . . .	Sage Green
ECONOMICS . . . . .	Copper
PHYSICAL THERAPY . . . . .	Teal
EDUCATION . . . . .	Light Blue
PUBLIC HEALTH . . . . .	Salmon Pink
FINE ARTS . . . . .	Brown
SCIENCE . . . . .	Golden Yellow
LAW . . . . .	Purple
SOCIAL WORK . . . . .	Citron
LIBRARY SCIENCE . . . . .	Lemon
THEOLOGY . . . . .	Scarlet
MUSIC . . . . .	Pink
NURSING . . . . .	Apricot
PSYCHOLOGY . . . . .	Gold

*Source: The Encyclopedia of Education*

## COMMENCEMENT BRASS AND PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

**Dr. Margaret Underwood, conductor**

**Trumpet**  
 Jaden Brown  
 Joseph DeLage  
 Emily Mercado  
 Lukas Norton  
 Forsby Quick  
 Adam Shepherd  
 Jonathan Wright

**Saxophone**  
 Wren Davis  
 Michael Houtzer  
 Danny Strother

**Trombone**  
 Chase Constance  
 Eli Henry  
 Xander Parilla  
 Elizabeth Phillips

**Horn**  
 Bruno Dippolito  
 Katie Sammons

**Euphonium**  
 Bradley Johnson

**Tuba**  
 Jerry Bradley  
 William Caldwell

**Percussion**  
 Zach Heller  
 Daniel Noonan  
 Russell Wallace

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the event of an emergency requiring medical or special assistance, please alert one of our student marshals. There will be no access to the arena floor during the awarding of diplomas. A commercial photographer will photograph graduates as they receive their diploma covers.

## THE UNIVERSITY MACE



The Western Carolina University mace is now the symbolic representation of the university's authority at official assemblies. The chief faculty marshal will carry the mace, or ceremonial staff, into the graduation assembly hall, where the mace will remain in a prominent position until the ceremony concludes.

Symbolic academic maces descend from medieval and earlier times, when heads of church and state carried wands or staffs representing authority. For generations, colleges and universities have used maces in their formal ceremonies, such as commencement exercises and inaugurations of presidents or chancellors.

The Western Carolina University mace is a shaft of black walnut, capped with a head of polished

bronze. The head is adorned with engraved mountain rhododendron leaves and bears bas-relief icons of old Madison Building, the Alumni Tower, the original Western Carolina University seal, and the University of North Carolina seal as symbols of WCU's history. A polished bronze finial in the shape of a globe symbolizes the university's mission of education and service.

The mace was designed and created by well-known sculptor Bill Eleazer, a Western Carolina University alumnus and retired art teacher at Tuscola High School in Haywood County. Eleazer was assisted in creating the walnut shaft of the mace by F. Merton Cregger, who is an accomplished craftsman in wood.

## COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

Christy Ashe  
Fred Bauknecht  
Drew Carnes  
Al Goranson  
Frank Hachadurian  
Larry Hammer

Clint Hardin  
Madyson Hayes  
James Hogan  
Deborah Houston  
Todd Lawing  
Jeffrey Lawson  
Cara LeCureux

Ed Ledford  
Steve Lillard  
William Moultrie, *Chair*  
Chelsea Reavis  
Wesley Satterwhite  
Sara Smith  
Shane Stovall

Julie Straus  
Jennifer Thomas  
Margaret Underwood  
Samuel Wallace  
Melissa Wargo  
Jessica Woods



WESTERN CAROLINA  
EST. 1889

