

ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND

FALL
COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY



DECEMBER 12, 2025 | 7:00 P.M.
BOB KIRK ARENA

Class of 2025



December 2025

Dear Graduates and Honored Guests:

Congratulations to our graduates as we celebrate this important milestone at Allegany College of Maryland! Today, we celebrate not only the remarkable achievements of our graduates, but also the unwavering support of the loved ones who stood beside them throughout their journey.

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I would like to commend our graduates for their perseverance, dedication, and hard work. We are proud of all you have accomplished and excited for the opportunities that lie ahead.

To our honored guests, thank you for your encouragement and sacrifices, which played a vital role in your graduate's success. This day is a celebration of your support as well as their achievement.

As our graduates step into the next chapter of their lives, we remain confident in your potential and inspired by your promise. We hope you will stay connected with us, share your successes, and continue to be part of the Allegany College of Maryland community. We are always cheering you on.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David R. Jones
President

ORDER of EXERCISES

PRELUDE	West Virginia Brass Quintet <i>Directed by Dr. Brian Plitnik</i>
* PROCESSIONAL.....	Dr. Tonya A. Shepherd <i>Grand Marshal</i> Dr. Brandon J. Hoover <i>Assistant Grand Marshal</i>
* PROCESSIONAL.....	Edward Elgar Pomp and Circumstance – March No. 1, Trio
* THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (sing along).....	West Virginia Brass Quintet
WELCOME	Mr. David R. Jones <i>President</i>
GREETINGS	Mr. Kim B. Leonard <i>Board of Trustees, Chair</i>
INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSES	Mr. Scott Golub Mrs. Kate Tummino
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSES.....	Ms. Hannah-Yael Apedo Ms. Rachel L. Mullenax
AWARDING OF DEGREES	Mr. Kim B. Leonard Candidates Presented by..... Dr. Kurt W. Hoffman <i>Senior Vice President of Instructional and Student Affairs</i>
* RECESSIONAL	Edward Elgar March No. 4, Trio

** Members of audience are requested to rise.*

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE COLLEGE CENTER



PLEASE SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS AN ELECTRONIC
VERSION OF THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY PROGRAM.

Regalia

Academic regalia, with its distinctive gowns, hoods, and caps, reflects a tradition that dates back to the medieval universities of Europe. The cap and gown symbolize academic achievement, while the hood, lined with colors representing the graduate's field of study and institution, signifies scholarly distinction. Faculty and staff wear these garments to honor the shared pursuit of knowledge and the centuries-old customs of higher education. Today's varied colors and styles highlight individual accomplishment and the collective spirit of scholarship celebrated at commencement.

The bachelor's gown is distinguished by its long-pointed sleeves. The master's gown has longer, narrower closed sleeves, extending below the knee; the arm is passed through a slit at the elbow. Finally, the doctoral gown has a full bell-shaped sleeve with three bars of velvet and an opening faced with wide velvet bands. The velvet trim may be black or of a color indicating the wearer's learning field or the institution from which the wearer earned their highest degree.

College graduates traditionally wear black caps and gowns because black was established as the standard academic color during the 19th century when American universities sought a uniform look for graduation ceremonies, drawing from the scholarly traditions

of medieval Europe. Black was considered dignified, formal, and neutral, allowing additional symbolism to be displayed through the colored hoods and trim denoting fields of study and academic achievement. Over the years, some institutions have incorporated their school colors into academic regalia. However, black remains the classic and widely recognized color for graduation gowns and caps across the United States.

Grand Marshals

The honor of serving as Grand Marshal is conferred upon a distinguished full-time Professor. The role of the Grand Marshal is to serve as the lead ceremonial official who ensures the event proceeds smoothly and with dignity. Grand Marshals lead the academic processional and recession, and assist with coordinating the lineup and movement of graduates and faculty.

The Grand Marshals in this ceremony are Dr. Tonya Shepherd, Professor of English and Speech, and Dr. Brandon Hoover, Professor of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies.



The Presidential Medallion

The top half of the circular medallion utilizes the natural patterning in green and blue agates to create an inlaid representation of mountains and sky. The left lower quarter of the medallion features polished malachite, chosen for its resemblance to the school color of green. This slice serves as a backdrop to a sculpted gold lamp of knowledge. The opposing lower section is worked in a four-color enamel depicting portions of the Maryland state flag. "Allegany College of Maryland – Seal of the President," in gold letters within a twisted border, forms the circumference of the medallion. It is suspended from a satin ribbon and gold bail formed as a mortar board and rolled diploma.

Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa is the oldest International Honor Society, founded to give prestigious recognition to community college students with excellent academic achievements. Graduates participating in Phi Theta Kappa proudly display a gold stole and tassel to recognize their accomplishments as PTK student members. PTK members can also wear the PTK medallion and cords if they so desire.

Honors Program

The Allegany College of Maryland Honors Program participants complete honors-by-contract courses. Since the Honors Program is not a separate curriculum, the student may major in any one-year certificate or two-year associate degree program.

Students in the Honors Program must complete a minimum of 12 hours of honors courses with a grade of “B” or better in the course as well as on the honors project, maintain a 3.5 grade point average, and provide three hours of service to the college or the community per semester.

As a participating member of the National Collegiate Honors Council, the Northeast Collegiate Honors Council, and the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council, Allegany College of Maryland supports and encourages academic excellence.

Cords and Pins

Special cords and pins worn by graduates during today’s ceremony represent academic honors, membership in honor societies, significant extracurricular activities and achievements, and/or completion of a specific academic major.

These cords are usually colorful strands with tassels draped around the graduate’s neck. Each color or combination typically signifies a distinct accomplishment such as Early College student, high academic standing, participation in specific organizations, recognition for leadership, or military service.

Pins often signify students’ transition from learners to professionals ready to serve in their chosen field. Pins may also signify membership in an honor society or recognition of specific leadership roles, adding further distinction to the graduate’s regalia.

Wearing these symbols at graduation signifies pride, reflecting the graduate’s dedication, perseverance, and contributions during their college journey.

Latin Honors

Graduates who have achieved a high standard of academic excellence are recognized with Latin Honors. The three levels of distinction are:



Summa Cum Laude

(with highest honor)

Cumulative Grade Point Average of

3.80 to 4.00



Magna Cum Laude

(with great honor)

Cumulative Grade Point Average of

3.51 to 3.79



Cum Laude

(with honor)

Cumulative Grade Point Average of

3.30 to 3.50

These honors celebrate exceptional academic achievement and are awarded to acknowledge graduating students’ hard work and scholarly dedication.

Indication of honors is signified by a ♦ symbol next to the graduate’s name.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREES

APPLIED TECHNICAL STUDIES

Krista K. Bence♦
Jaci H. Rowe♦♦♦

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Joseph J. Aberle
Matthew Carilus

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY - AOC CYBERSECURITY

Xavier E. Ashley
Gage Thomas Bertoncini
Michael C. Bise♦♦♦
Lance P. Evans♦♦
Shannon J. Gunning
Conner Scott Lyons
Maddox W. Sanner♦♦
Thayne D. Smith♦
Luke A. Turner♦
(*Phi Theta Kappa*)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Hannah-Yael Apedo♦♦
(LOR)
(*Phi Theta Kappa*)

CULINARY ARTS

Madison G. Nail♦♦♦

ENGINEERING - AOC AUTOMATED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

Grace Johana Isabella Fike♦♦♦
(*Phi Theta Kappa*)

FOREST TECHNOLOGY

Christian Bankey
Brandon Joshua Bennett
Ryder L. Kennell

HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT - HOTEL & RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT

Madison G. Nail♦♦♦

LEGAL STUDIES

Jeffrey A. Beardsley♦♦♦
(*Phi Theta Kappa*)
Megan C. McKenzie♦♦
(*Phi Theta Kappa*)

MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY

Raeven M. Gray
Tiffany E. Moon
Noah M. Whetsel

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREES

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Kendra Catherine Brill♦
(AOC Psychology)
(*Phi Theta Kappa*)
Leann S. Crowe
(AOC Sociology)
Jordan R. Cutter♦♦
(AOC Psychology, AOC Sociology)
(*Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Sigma Lambda*)
Tara J. Feuillet♦♦♦
(AOC Psychology)
Kylee Lynne Harman♦♦♦
(AOC Business Accounting)
Hannah Pauline Hook♦♦
(AOC Psychology)
William B. Howsare♦♦
(AOC Psychology)
(*Phi Theta Kappa*)
Rachel L. Mullenax♦♦♦
(AOC Psychology)
(*Phi Theta Kappa*)
Lakiah L. Powell
(AOC Psychology, AOC Sociology)
Jacquelyn K. Raymond♦♦
(AOC Business Accounting)
Jaci H. Rowe♦♦♦
(AOC Psychology)
Alexa M. Smith♦♦
(AOC Social Work)
Avery B. Wallace♦
(AOC Psychology)

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Elijah Marcelo Bourne
Jacquelyn K. Raymond♦♦
Caedon R. Wallace

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRANSFER

Kylie M. Thomas♦♦♦

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRANSFER - AOC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Katlynn R. Dolly♦♦

GENERAL STUDIES

Destiny R. Amtower♦♦♦
Sara M. Brown♦
Caiden J. Chorpenning♦
Leann S. Crowe
Johnna H. Geasey♦♦
Lisa D. Horner
Andrea C. Love-Cook
Leah A. McMillan♦
Maya Mitchell♦♦
(Alpha Sigma Lambda)
Rachel L. Mullenax♦♦♦
(Phi Theta Kappa)
Joshua T. Nelson
Shenna E. Reed♦
(Phi Theta Kappa)
Riley E. Ritchey
Jaci H. Rowe♦♦♦
Christine Savage
Haley N. Shircliffe♦♦♦
Joyce L. Snyder
Ava Jean Twigg
Gabriela A. Weinstein

NURSING

Deliscia D. Adams
Ruth D. Adedeji
Dora A. Asamoah
Rachel Ann Baronie
Megan Noel Benfer♦

Amy J. Berkebile
Lacey M. Bittinger
Nicole Bolden
McKenna M. Bonner
Rebecca Boretski
Margaret Brown
Sara M. Brown♦
Latrice V. Brown-Toller
Bridgett L. Campbell
Yasmin E. Cantu
Nola J. Chamberlain
Kristy L. Christy
Marissa S. Cook
Masae Cotter
Stefania Rose Harris
Usoka Dabrinze
Starr Monasia Davis♦
Jessica D. Deal
Beverly D. Dean
Andrea Lynn Dowdy
(Honors)
Leonie Ebob Tanyi
Ericka M. Esquivel
(Honors)
Brenda M. Fernandez
Fathiya A. Fuseini
Leangel N. Gaffney♦
Christian Q. Gordon
Sarah M. Guinn
(Phi Theta Kappa)
Erica C. Gyimah♦
Autumn Paige Haught
Mary Heiser
Katherine E. Henry
Terin N. Hill
Kayla G. Hinish
Danielle R. Hook
Landon R. Hook
Kimberly Huggins♦♦♦
Chidinma Ike♦♦♦
Angela Inzaina
Debbie Ann Jenkins-Melancon
Davian M. Jones

Dawn Keighley♦
Renee Lynne Kerr
Trudie Kline
Heather Marie Knox***
(Phi Theta Kappa)
Amber L. Kress
Jacqueline D. Kyle
Latasha L. Lacy
Shianne A. Lanehart♦
Sandra C. Lee
Cindy K. Leedom
Audra G. Leighton
Aaronia S. Litten
Alice M. Lumpkin
Cristal D. Martin
Ethan K. Mauk
Daniel P. Maylum
Catelynn A. McCune
Tabitha Christine Meeker
Janet M. Mendez
Danielle H. Moore
Michelle A. Metzgar
Fatuma O. Mussa
Abigail E. Natolly
Marceline E. Ndo
Mary C. Onuaku-Nebuwa
Jumoke Opeyemi Akinbo
Bebe Ann Orozco
Julia Lynn Ott
Nicole M. Panek
Tara Parsons
Cydney E. Pearl♦
Emily E. Phillips♦
Melissa L. Phillips♦
Tiffany Ann Phillips
Victorine A. Pinanzu
Brandi L. Pirrone
Anna Elizabeth Pruitt-Parks
(Phi Theta Kappa)
Melissa Carrie Reese♦♦
(Phi Theta Kappa)
Kathryn A. Riemenschneider
Dawn N. Robinson

Tisha R. Rodgers
Mary E. Rogers
Mahogany E. Rose
Cassandra J. Ruth♦♦
Lussane M. Sackor
Alexis Saeler
Christine Savage
Teresa L. Schneck♦♦♦
Claudia Segovia
Andrea L. Shaw
Janeil S. Sherman
Jacquelyn T. Simons♦
(Phi Theta Kappa)
Elizabeth Sotelo
William D. Syx
Gerardine Yolande Tamokoue Tagne♦♦
Peyton E. Thomas
Leah N. Warren
Ashley H. Watson
Teresa E. Weismiller
Shawn S. West♦
Carrie L. Wilhelm
Shiloh M. Wilk
Alexis S. Williams
Keymon D. Williams
Saraney Michelle Williams
DonAsia M. Wilson♦
Megan E. Wilson
Nicole Wilson Dean
Leah E. Wilt♦♦♦
Ansomah B. Yeboah
Craig Yoder
Mackensie Young
Susan Young
Kaitlyn B. Zirkle-Taylor

TEACHER EDUCATION

Rachel L. Mullenax♦♦♦
(AOC Early Childhood)
(Phi Theta Kappa)

CERTIFICATES

ADDICTIONS

Destiny R. Amtower
Chyanne Elise Thompson**
(Phi Theta Kappa, Honors)

BUSINESS ACCOUNTING

Hailee N. McIntosh

BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Shayna N. Hann
Jada Thompson

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY - TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Jordan Lang***

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVESTIGATIONS

Katlynn R. Dolly**

FOREST TECHNOLOGY - TREE CARE TECHNICIAN

Ryder L. Kennell

GENERAL STUDIES

Johnna H. Geasey**
Emma L. Michael***

LEGAL STUDIES

Jeffrey A. Beardsley***
(Phi Theta Kappa)
Megan C. McKenzie**
(Phi Theta Kappa)

**MEDICAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT -
MEDICAL CODING AND BILLING**

Addison R. Bagley***

MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY - GRAPHIC DESIGN

Tiffany E. Moon

**MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY - SOCIAL MEDIA
MARKETING**

Raeven M. Gray

**ASSOCIATE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREES**

APPLIED TECHNICAL STUDIES

Eric M. Tomlinson

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Antonio A. Bruno

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY – AOC CYBERSECURITY

Jordan Lang***

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Eric M. Tomlinson

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

Malora M. Lawrence

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Jessalyn Grace Bartlett**
Sarah Elizabeth Clites***
Sarah M. Fornwalt**
Trinity E. Hose**
Cora A. Madden***
Paige A. Self**
Lydia Ann Shingler***
(Phi Theta Kappa)
Jalyn Grace Western**
(Phi Theta Kappa)

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Katie D. Fairgrieve
Donald Tyler Ford**
Ethan K. Fratz
Chase W. Gray
Kaleigh M. Hott*
Olivia G. Marsh*
Tiffany Renee Opel*
Kaitlyn B. Simpson
Bailey S. Stahlman**
Sydney Elizabeth Thomas
Emily Kate Wotring***

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Gabriell M. Blamble

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREES

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Faith Tinkey♦♦
(AOC Art)

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREES

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Clayton B. Mitchell
(AOC Business Accounting)

Frances Ann Simmons
(AOC Sociology)

Aralynn Nicole Teter-Dobbs♦♦
(AOC Sociology)

GENERAL STUDIES

John Antonelli♦

Miranda N. Bible

Layni L. Miller♦♦♦

Donna Jean Morgan♦♦

Amanda Robertson

Curtis Paul Wells, III

Deidra Dolores Williams
(Phi Theta Kappa)

Nina R. Williams

TEACHER EDUCATION

Emma Grace Monahan
(AOC Early Childhood)

Trinity M. Hillegas♦♦♦
(AOC Elementary)
(Honors)

CERTIFICATES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Eric M. Tomlinson

MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY – SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

Lacey Joelle Rivers

PRACTICAL NURSING

Angela Dawn Barkman
(Phi Theta Kappa)

Abigail A. Bowlby♦♦♦
(Honors)

Madison Paige Claar

Ian Paul Darby♦♦

Jessica D. Deal

Clara F. Hoover

Kerry Lynn Jenkins

Lacie Brooke Johnson

Eleanor N. Kemokai♦♦

Shianne Lanehart♦

Anna R. Logsdon

Melissa Martz

Kamran Mashburn♦
(Phi Theta Kappa)

Haley K. McDonald

Tricia A. Murray♦

Alexis Saeler

Madison L. Seese♦

Hailey M. Sindlededecker

Alison Lynne Wade♦♦
(Phi Theta Kappa, Honors)

Deidra Dolores Williams
(Phi Theta Kappa)

Kaitlyn B. Zirkle-Taylor



We're So Proud of You!

Congratulations graduates on this momentous occasion!

As a proud graduate of Allegany College of Maryland, you will receive a free one-year membership to the ACM Alumni Association. Please stay connected, we want to hear about all the incredible things you achieve! Reach out to the Alumni Office at 301-784-5129 to share your accomplishments and updates.

#TrojanAlumni



allegany.edu/alumni



[/alleganycollegeofmaryland](https://alleganycollegeofmaryland)



[/alleganycollegeofmd](https://alleganycollegeofmd)



[/alleganycollgmd](https://alleganycollgmd)

ALLEGANY COLLEGE *of* MARYLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kim B. Leonard, Chair
Jane A. Belt, Vice Chair
Mirjhana Boggs Buck
Linda W. Buckel
Eugene T. Frazier
Michele R. Martz
James R. Pyles
Mr. David R. Jones, Secretary-Treasurer



MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

Cassie Motz, Chair
Chike Aguh, Vice Chair
Kathleen Bands, Ph.D.
Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.
Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.
Barbara Kerr Howe
Narcisa A. Polonio, Ed.D.
Rebecca Taber Staehelin
Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D.
Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.
Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.
Sarah Otwey, Student Commissioner
Sanjay Rai, Ph.D., Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor | Aruna Miller, Lieutenant Governor

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE/DISTRICT I

Senator Michael W. McKay
Delegate Terry L. Baker
Delegate Jason C. Buckel
Delegate James C. Hinebaugh, Jr.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ALLEGANY COUNTY

William R. Atkinson
Creade V. Brodie, Jr.
David J. Caporale