



Class of 2026

COMMENCEMENT

John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences

College of Food Innovation & Technology

College of Health & Wellness

College of Hospitality & Business

Charlotte, North Carolina

April 30, 2026

1 p.m.

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Congratulations, Class of 2026!



Today, we celebrate your achievement and perseverance. We gather to honor you — your accomplishments, your growth and the journey that has brought you to this defining moment.

Before you turn the page to what comes next, reflect on how far you have come. Think about the challenges you faced, the long nights when you surprised yourself with your strength, creativity and resilience. Those moments shaped the person you are today. Recognize those who have walked beside you — your family and friends, professors and advisors, coaches, mentors and the dedicated staff of Johnson & Wales. Their encouragement, wisdom and belief helped carry you to this day. They share in this milestone.

Your education has prepared you for the road ahead. You have learned the power of leadership and collaboration, and you have developed the professional skills to lead with confidence. Carry the values of The Wildcat Way — living with pride, courage, character and a deep commitment to community — wherever life leads, and let it guide how you lead. Be bold. Take thoughtful risks. Pursue your passions. Trust yourself.

As you leave Johnson & Wales University, know that you are not leaving your community; you are expanding it. You now join a proud alumni network of Wildcats who uplift and support one another. Stay connected. Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat. The future is brighter because of you.

Forever JWU,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard G. Mathieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard G. Mathieu, Ph.D.
president, Charlotte Campus

About Johnson & Wales University

Founded in 1914, Johnson & Wales University is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with more than 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students at its campuses in Providence, Rhode Island and Charlotte, North Carolina, and through JWU Online. An innovative educational leader, the university offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in arts and sciences, business, hospitality, food innovation, and health and wellness.

JWU's unique model provides students with the personalized attention, academic expertise and industry connections that inspire professional success and personal growth. The time students spend at JWU is nothing short of transformative, as demonstrated by career outcomes, expected earnings and economic mobility rankings. The university's impact is global, with alumni in 130 countries pursuing careers worldwide.

To learn more, visit [jwu.edu](https://www.jwu.edu).

Order of Exercises

PROCESSION

Commencement Marshals

Christopher Roy, Ph.D.
chair, John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences and College of Health & Wellness

Amy Felder, Ed.D.
chair, baking & pastry arts, College of Food Innovation & Technology

Jennifer Gallagher
chair, culinary arts, College of Food Innovation & Technology

David Hudson, DNP, RN
university chief nursing officer, program director, College of Health & Wellness

Sunil Atreya
chair, College of Hospitality & Business

Candidates for Degrees

Faculty of the Colleges

Platform Party

led by mace bearer Manasseh Zechariah, Ph.D.
chair, University Faculty Council; professor, John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences

WELCOME

Richard G. Mathieu, Ph.D.
president, Charlotte Campus

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Kalid Joseph '29

PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

Richard G. Mathieu

CLASS OF 2026 STUDENT ADDRESS

John Billinis ’26

GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Angela Kimbrough ’18
human resources manager, The Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATE

Richard Wiscott, Ph.D.
provost

CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DEGREE

Steven Jeffrey Bagwell, CPA
chief executive officer, Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority

Conferred by
Mim L. Runey, LP.D.
chancellor

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Steven Jeffrey Bagwell, CPA, ’26 Hon.

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

Richard Wiscott

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Mim L. Runey

RECESSIONAL

Student Speaker

JOHN BILLINIS '26

Corporate Accounting and Financial Analysis

John “JB” Billinis is originally from Chicago, Illinois, but calls Clemson, South Carolina home. He transferred to JWU Charlotte as a sophomore in search of a deeper connection to his peers and campus community — and quickly found it. Immersing himself in student life, Billinis made a lasting impact through his leadership as student body president, captain of the men’s tennis team, and chair of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

A dedicated advocate for student voices, Billinis has worked to turn ideas into action while excelling academically. He represented JWU at the Institute of Management Accountants Student Leadership Conference and earned top honors in campus competitions such as Sharkfest and the Student Research, Design & Innovation Symposium.

Known across campus for his willingness to support others, he has also served as a peer tutor, helping fellow students succeed and strengthening the JWU community.

Billinis will remain in Charlotte to begin his career with Columbus McKinnon as a tax accountant and plans to pursue his CPA — continuing his commitment to growth, leadership and community.

Alumni Speaker

ANGELA KIMBROUGH '18

human resources manager, The Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte

Angela Kimbrough is a Baltimore native, the eldest of six, a proud mother of two boys and a lovable labradoodle, and an avid traveler.

Kimbrough's career is rooted in a strong foundation of discipline and service, evolving from military service into leadership within luxury hospitality. During her 12 years in the U.S. Air Force, she served as a chef, fitness supervisor, librarian, bartender, mortuary team member, unit trainer and missile alert facility manager, a testament to her versatility and willingness to step into new challenges. As a unit trainer, she revamped training programs, increasing personnel scores by 35% — surpassing the Air Force average by three percent.

In 2014, Kimbrough enrolled at JWU to pursue a bachelor's degree in Hotel & Lodging Management. By 2016, she was working as a guest service agent at Le Méridien Hotels & Resorts while pursuing her degree and a minor in sommelier studies. After graduation Kimbrough joined the prestigious JW Marriott Rooms Operations Voyager program in Washington, D.C., a fast-track leadership program offering hands-on experience in hotel operations, guest services and management through rotational assignments.

In 2019, Kimbrough returned to Charlotte as a human resources generalist at The Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte, a AAA Five-Diamond property. She quickly advanced, becoming senior human resources generalist in 2021 and human resources manager in 2022, a role she continues to lead in today.

Honorary Degree Recipient

STEVEN JEFFREY BAGWELL, CPA

Doctor of Business Administration



Steven Bagwell is a dedicated advocate for the hospitality industry, with a career spanning over 25 years devoted to enhancing Charlotte’s visitor economy. A native of the Queen City, he brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to fostering a positive organizational culture. As CEO of the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA), he leads efforts to champion tourism as a key driver of economic development and to enhance the positive impact the visitor economy has on the community’s quality of life.

Bagwell’s leadership journey began at the Charlotte Convention Center when it opened in 1995, where he served as warehouse manager before transitioning into the role of concessions manager within the Food & Beverage department. His experience expanded during his tenure in Finance, where he played a pivotal role in the 2004 merger that formed the CRVA. Over more than a decade, he managed financial reporting and audit functions, earning his CPA designation in 2000.

By 2012, Bagwell was at the helm of the Charlotte Convention Center as general manager, and by 2014, he was promoted to vice president of venues, overseeing operations at some of Charlotte’s most significant event spaces. His leadership has contributed to hundreds of successful events annually, generating millions for the local economy. He also spearheaded major projects like the \$127 million expansion of the Charlotte Convention Center in 2021 and the \$20 million enhancement to the Bojangles Entertainment Complex in 2020.

A testament to his ability to lead large-scale operations and navigate complex projects that leave a lasting impact on the city, Bagwell has been instrumental in hosting high-profile events such as the 2012 Democratic National Convention, the 2019 NBA All-Star Weekend and the 2014 Alpha Kappa Alpha 66th Boule.

Bagwell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Clemson University and is a proud alumnus of Leadership Charlotte Class 41. He serves on several boards, including the Charlotte Sports Foundation, Charlotte Center City Partners and the NASCAR Hall of Fame Foundation, where he is also a member of the Advisory Committee. Additionally, he is a trustee of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance Board, reflecting his deep commitment to advancing the economic and cultural vitality of Charlotte.

The deans and faculty of the John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Food Innovation & Technology, the College of Health & Wellness, and the College of Hospitality & Business proudly present their Classes of 2026.

John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences

Christopher Roy, Ph.D., chair

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Harlena Ladena Munnings

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Madison T. Glover	Ashley Lauren Miles
Jessica Ann Guerra	Ashley Nicole Pair
Dee Lao	Beatrice Joanne Robinson
Takyla NaQuan Lyons	Jeremy Ramon Thuesdee
Chaitanya Mantrala	

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Karly Jade Harris <i>summa cum laude</i>	Christi Teasley Soni <i>summa cum laude</i>
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BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Zoe Savara Balmer <i>magna cum laude</i>	Jayla Serenity Craddock <i>summa cum laude</i>
Teagan Kassidy Bradford <i>magna cum laude</i>	Zonae D. Davey <i>magna cum laude</i>
Madison Paige Brown <i>magna cum laude</i>	Kimberly M. Deaton <i>magna cum laude</i>
Dustin Jacob Clark <i>magna cum laude</i>	Jayden A. Johnson

Justice Kenyatta Johnson
magna cum laude

Starlisha T. Keith
summa cum laude

Fernando Reymundo Lopez
Bautista

Charlei-Jane Paloma Mangano

Kavontae Kweli Neal

Michael Anthony Osornio

Myles Anderson Parker

Ebony Marie Roy-Jackson
magna cum laude

Mercedes Sanchez

Laila Marie Shaw

Ashley Katrice Terry
summa cum laude

Osriana La’nay Tomlinson
summa cum laude

Yasmine Wadleigh

College of Food Innovation & Technology

Amy Felder, Ed.D., chair, baking and pastry arts

Jennifer Gallagher, chair, culinary arts

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Emzi Vester Clemons Jr.	Latoya T. Rhines
Natasia Taniyah Nealous	

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Praise Victoria Achi	Kayla Gibson
Anite Erin Augustin	<i>summa cum laude</i>
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Direka Marie Gordon
Elani Patrice Bailey	<i>summa cum laude</i>
<i>summa cum laude</i>	Keri Antranique Harrell
Cassandra LeeAnn Bayes	<i>cum laude</i>
Jordan Beall	Diamond Hazzard
Christiana Elizabeth Bell ²	Alexcia A. Jackson
<i>summa cum laude</i>	<i>magna cum laude</i>
Anthony Keith Bias	Joi Trinity-Nevaeh Jackson
Branden Eugene Omar Blair	Sky Kaniya Jones
Sierra Kennedy Blair	Fatima Khurshid Khan
<i>summa cum laude</i>	Christopher Matthew Kriepps
Whittany Eboni Burgess	Levi Timothy Lambert
Arielle Marie Chavis	<i>summa cum laude</i>
Denise Gwen Cruz Diaz	Deven Letton
<i>magna cum laude</i>	<i>magna cum laude</i>
Arrianna Anastasia Ebert	Timothy Qin Li
Anthony Rayshawn Gainer	Alexis Ayanna Livingston
	<i>cum laude</i>

Gabriella C. Luthard	Hannah Siera Shine
Nia Amari Lyons	Micaiah R. Smith
Brandon Joshua Mables	<i>cum laude</i>
Samantha Elle MacPherson	Mya Grace Smith
Maria Christina Martinez	Madison Rylee Stankiewicz
Brenna Marie McKinzie	Katherine Margaret Stevens
<i>summa cum laude</i>	<i>cum laude</i>
Avery Helena McLeod	Laney Elisabeth Tarleton
Lincoln J. Mitchell	<i>magna cum laude</i>
Tyejay Kevin Oldham	Zinnia Chanel Tookes
Shaniya Nichole Quates	<i>cum laude</i>
Vante Lee Rodgers	Kayden Curtis Uzzle
Jose Rodriguez-Valdez	<i>cum laude</i>
Adrian Chase Rogers	Joyce Lorpu Weah
<i>cum laude</i>	Seymone Roxanne Wells
Josiah Anthony Rouse	<i>cum laude</i>
Connor Saucedo	Jasmine Nicole Whitaker
Jamie Niko Sheinhartz	Ksenya R. White
<i>cum laude</i>	

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

Rasheedah Miranda Lee	Nevaeh Janae Anderson
Abdulummit	Caleb Michael Arthur
Diamond Danika Abel	Daniya Jeeliah Ashford
Praise Victoria Achi	Max Anthony Astacio
Joy Christina Ackerman	<i>summa cum laude</i>
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Caleb Alexander Ayers
Brayden Makhai Alexander	Keegan Daniel Bachert
Irene Joy Allen	<i>summa cum laude</i>
Bryce Arrington Anderson	Ashley Bailey Dixon
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Nisaiah K. Barksdale
Hannah Elizabeth Anderson	

Abigail Grace Basinger <i>cum laude</i>	James Donald Bradley III
Brian Francis Battle III	Sydney-Kay R. Bragg <i>cum laude</i>
Raffaele Daniel Bauer	Tyler James Aidan Brailsford
Edith Yael Beam <i>magna cum laude</i>	Danielle Lee Brake <i>magna cum laude</i>
Olivia Esperanza Bell <i>summa cum laude</i>	Lauren Brenneman
Morgan Sophia Benkoski <i>summa cum laude</i>	Imani Olivia Brice <i>magna cum laude</i>
Ny’ashia Linett Bennett	Lexie May Brockwell <i>magna cum laude</i>
Joshua Devon Bernadis	Alexander Charles Brown Jr.
Alexander Scot Bernhardt	Carissa Deion Brown <i>cum laude</i>
Regina Fabienne Bersinger <i>summa cum laude</i>	Jamiyah Neohsia Brown
Tay Danielle Beslin	Love’ella Rene Marie Brown
Sebastian Andres Betancourt <i>cum laude</i>	Cymonè Tatiana Brundage
Julius S. Bhola	Katherine A. Buchanan
Anthony Keith Bias	Thomas Alexander Buchmann <i>cum laude</i>
Mary Katherine Billingsley <i>magna cum laude</i>	Whittany Eboni Burgess
Karli Anne Bischoff <i>summa cum laude</i>	Sophia Nicole Busser <i>magna cum laude</i>
Zorian Josiah Black <i>magna cum laude</i>	Michelle Monique Bynum
Marshall M. Blackwell <i>magna cum laude</i>	Allison Grace Byrum
Laura E. Boeman <i>cum laude</i>	Gabriela Cabrera Martinez
Meicha Ann Bowen	Makila Calhoun
Saniyya Elease Mo’nay Boykin	Lakeya M. Caliz
	Madison Capodice <i>cum laude</i>
	Terry Leon Carraway Jr.

Kiara Leigh Carrington	Andrew Austin Craig
Kaniyah Kijea Cary	<i>magna cum laude</i>
Danielle Autum Champelle	Jayla My’nique Curry
Veronica Anna Chom	Emma Medray Daugherty
<i>summa cum laude</i>	Brenna Delaney Davis
Hannah Elizabeth Christensen	<i>summa cum laude</i>
<i>summa cum laude</i>	Jaden Michael Davis
Cheyanne Brooke Clark	Kylie Renaye Davis
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Lamia Nashiya Davis
Kalea J. Clark	Sharyiah Lynette Davis
Xavier Ali Clark	Trinity D. Davis
Eryn Thai Clay Jackson	<i>summa cum laude</i>
<i>cum laude</i>	Sophia Angel-Rose Deeb
Joseph Scott Cleary	<i>summa cum laude</i>
Magdalene Rae Clotfelter	Bryce Cody Detwiler Jr.
<i>cum laude</i>	Safiatou Djiba Diallo
Layla Ellis Coats	Marlee Diguardo-Brandt
<i>cum laude</i>	Faith Daniele Dockery
Kiera Andrea Collins	Richard Dominguez-Lopez
<i>summa cum laude</i>	Lydia Shiannan Donnell
Verónica Colón Vera	<i>magna cum laude</i>
<i>cum laude</i>	Jenny Dorlean
Skyla A. Connor-Draughon	Lorenzo Antonio Dover
Kianna Denise Contreras	Nariyah Y. Downer
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Tera DeAnn Draper
Joshua Isaiah Copeland	Carmella Ann Dzombar
Antonio Gilberto Coreas	<i>magna cum laude</i>
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Kenyon A. Echols II
Angelica Maria Cortes	<i>cum laude</i>
Villanueva	Jahmelia Shaquana Edwards
<i>cum laude</i>	<i>magna cum laude</i>
Makenna Rion Emery Couse	
<i>summa cum laude</i>	

John August Elwell <i>cum laude</i>	Annabella Rose Glasser-Weston <i>summa cum laude</i>
Jasanna Kay Evans <i>summa cum laude</i>	Isabelle Amanda Gonzalez <i>summa cum laude</i>
Emily Elizabeth Fassett	Janessa Myra Loreal Gonzalez <i>magna cum laude</i>
Kristen Eve Ferrari <i>cum laude</i>	Damiya Adenike Greenway
Nyla Ford	Gabrielle Rose Gregory
Adrienne Nichae Forrest	Carly Victoria Griffin
Henry Derek Fracalossi <i>summa cum laude</i>	Karlee Shannon Griffin <i>summa cum laude</i>
Gianna Renee Faith Fraser	Kristina Tamara Hare
Maxwell Andrew Frederick	Jerome Peter Hargrow II
Sylvia A. Freidig <i>cum laude</i>	Rose Harned <i>summa cum laude</i>
La’shawnti Na’da’jah Frink	Laken Dakota Harris
Catherine Ashleigh Furman <i>magna cum laude</i>	Taylor Lynn-Marie Harvey
Chelsea Imani Gadsden	Emily Rose Haynes <i>summa cum laude</i>
Ashley Tatiana Galvis-Escobar <i>summa cum laude</i>	Lily Marina Elizabeth Heffley <i>summa cum laude</i>
Krystal D’Anna Gattis Bernal	Xavier Lavell Henry
Kymmya Amor’e George	Anijazmin Hernandez-Santiago <i>cum laude</i>
Asani Soniya Gerald	Cha-Ronn Tavares Hill Jr.
Jaylin Tavon Gerald	Imani Nikol Hinds
Chyan Gilbert	Kabari Karnett Hinton
Kylah Elizabeth Gilbert <i>cum laude</i>	Ryan J. Hottinger
Jakobie L. Ginns	Jordan Adekunbi Indya
Acelynn Renae Givens <i>magna cum laude</i>	Howard <i>summa cum laude</i>

Amirah LaRue Hunt <i>magna cum laude</i>	Ruby Aurora Kathryn Lane
Nyigel J. Hunter	Shanaya Laney
Mary E. Irvin <i>cum laude</i>	Jaiden Delroy Laqua
Ericiya Ajanae Jackson	Annika Caroline Lawrence
Harmony Nevaeh Jacobs <i>magna cum laude</i>	Samara Naomi Lawton <i>magna cum laude</i>
Samantha Claire Jacobs	Dylan David Lewis
A’Nyah Dejanelle James-Britton	Merrick Gabriel Lewis
Eva Margaret Jernigan <i>magna cum laude</i>	Kalin Renee Lincoln
Alanna Sanai Johnson	Dakota Lynn Loan
Anonee Akeelah Johnson	Ronald Edward Logan
Chalena Danielle Johnson	Jazmyne Laschea Long
Jamesha Ishmell Johnson <i>magna cum laude</i>	Katalina Lopez <i>magna cum laude</i>
Ashlyn Gabrielle Jones <i>magna cum laude</i>	Reed Michael Lusk <i>summa cum laude</i>
Dane Andrew Jones <i>summa cum laude</i>	Gianna Rose Mancini <i>summa cum laude</i>
Riley Elise Jones	Brooke Alyssa Mann <i>magna cum laude</i>
Andriy Juan-Antunez	Andrew Louis Mannino
Skylar Delise Keliiholokai	Ryan Thomas Margeson <i>summa cum laude</i>
Sydney Kelley	Iris Alexia Marroquin
Olivia Michelina Kieffer	Mikayla Astasia Marshall
Caleb Allan Dandridge Kiekenapp <i>magna cum laude</i>	Brigney Martinez-Lopez <i>cum laude</i>
Chloe C. Kratenstein	Zora Nia Massey
Lucas A. Kuhn	Gordon Scott Mathews III <i>cum laude</i>
	Debbry Nduta Mburu <i>magna cum laude</i>

John Stephen McCauley <i>cum laude</i>	Isabella Sophia Ochoa <i>summa cum laude</i>
Bailey E. McCorkle <i>cum laude</i>	Bashir Olatunde Ogbulu
Nataly Anne McCrary	Malachi Amere-Lei Oliver
Katara D. McGee	Alana Sky Orozco
Eizabella Hope McGowan	Ivan Gabriel Pagan Galarza Jr.
Maisy Pond McLoughlin <i>magna cum laude</i>	Brandon Gabriel Painter <i>magna cum laude</i>
Justin Myles McNair	Kyle Palickar
Elizabeth Grace Meister	Desire Renee Parker
Andrea Marilyn Mendez <i>summa cum laude</i>	Jasmine Aryanna Perkins <i>cum laude</i>
Jasmine Miller	Jhauriel RheAna O’Rion Perkins <i>summa cum laude</i>
Corey D. Mitchell	Kaylynn Nevaeh Perkins
Tucker Gregory Mitchell <i>magna cum laude</i>	Zane Perrone <i>cum laude</i>
Andrea Marie Molina	Liala Mari Pheng-Adams
Abigail Lynn Moran <i>summa cum laude</i>	Ayanna Dionisia Portillo
Skye Kimora-Monae Morris*	Corra Sleight Price
Nyah Denise-Nichole Moss <i>summa cum laude</i>	Hannah Gabrielle Prince
Amanda Marie Mroz <i>cum laude</i>	Eric James Puralewski
Kendall Gabrielle Myers	Rodriguez O. Purcha
Elijah James Natale	Madelyn Ann Quolke <i>summa cum laude</i>
India Renee Naylor	Devin Jahir Ragin
MacKenzie Rose Neal	Matthew Benjamin Ragland
Emilie Katherine Nicolet <i>summa cum laude</i>	Isabela Ramirez
	Taylor Nicole Ramirez <i>cum laude</i>

*Posthumously

Robert William Randall	Shymia Monia Smith
Savannah Faith Redding	<i>summa cum laude</i>
<i>summa cum laude</i>	Amilaya Elizabeth Spisiak
Sophia Glen Robbins	Zahni Asiya Spruill
<i>magna cum laude</i>	<i>cum laude</i>
Caitlin Marie Roberts	Jushaila Erionna Stafford
<i>cum laude</i>	Madison Rylee Stankiewicz
Olivia M. Roberts	Lana Simone Bell Stinson
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Judith Suarez
Ashanti Niesha Robinson	Xavier Kieth Sullivan
William Tait Robinson	Elijah J. Sykes
Gabriella Angelina Rodondi	Jesus Tello-Perez
John Kaden Rogers	Akira Brianna Thomas
Ana Abigail Roldan	<i>cum laude</i>
Colyn A. Rudis	Mercedes Brianna Thomas
<i>summa cum laude</i>	Edward Robert Thompson
Antonio Javier Rumbos	<i>cum laude</i>
Randolph Samuel Sanders III	Leila Marie Thompson
Derickal Gene Saulsberry Jr.	Ross Owen Thompson
Norah Elizabeth Scharr	Taylor Sue Thompson
<i>summa cum laude</i>	Tianna Ali Tillman
My’kel Quinton Scott	Cyrus Shogo Tin
<i>summa cum laude</i>	<i>magna cum laude</i>
Farica Ohanna Sealy	Elizabeth Grace Tran
Maakyah Marie Sherman	<i>summa cum laude</i>
Gabriel Paul Daniel Sinclair	Bayler Chase Treadway
Clayton Alexander Smith	Lisa Umemoto
Korbin Walker Smith	Kayden Curtis Uzzle
<i>summa cum laude</i>	<i>cum laude</i>
Micah Louis Smith	Eva Christine Van Acker
Mya Grace Smith	<i>summa cum laude</i>
Nyema Smith	Olivia Marie Velasquez

Valentina Vera <i>cum laude</i>	Mya C. Williams
Mandy Gabriella Vernon	Tayla M. Williams <i>magna cum laude</i>
Zoie Elyce Vincent <i>summa cum laude</i>	Victoria Ann Williams <i>magna cum laude</i>
Annie Tea Walker <i>summa cum laude</i>	Reagan Elizabeth Willis
Benjamin T. Walker	Tiuana M. Winnix
Christopher Jeremiah Walker	Thailin Maurice Daniel Witherspoon
Sara Nicole Walstedter <i>magna cum laude</i>	Isabelle Rosemarie Wood <i>magna cum laude</i>
Owen Lamont Warren Jr.	Joshua Alexander Woods
Sam Washington	Jalynn Alia Wright <i>magna cum laude</i>
Paige Madison Welch	Kiara Celeste Wright
Carson Grey Wells	Kyra M. Wright <i>summa cum laude</i>
Keegan Jordan Wells <i>summa cum laude</i>	Tydasia Dashanti Wright
Nathan James Wells	Lucas Alexander Wroblewski
Nyemah Semaj Whitley	Dazure Jasage Wyche
Nicholas E. Wilkins <i>summa cum laude</i>	Trenise Sierra Young
Kaziyah Nichole L’nae Williams	Claire Zukowski
Makalah Amorióna Williams	
Mikaela Inez Williams <i>magna cum laude</i>	

College of Health & Wellness

Christopher Roy, Ph.D., chair

David Hudson, DNP, RN, university chief nursing officer,
program director

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Michelle Marie Greenwood

Laura Unverzagt

Thays Felita Nogueira

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Iyana Alexander

Yomar Emilio Peguero

Isaiah Jose Escobar

Damaris Rodriguez

Laila Christine Hudgins

Dennis Oleg Shashkov

Nailah Jinks

Colin Talbot Starr

Jonella M. Lacoste

magna cum laude

Jamia Tiyanna McCoy

Enyia Alaina Taylor

John Alexander Moreno

Antonino Terranova

cum laude

Aaliyah Sanniya Moses

Gabriella Lynn Tully

Martha Lizette

summa cum laude

Orellana-Zavala

magna cum laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Emily Michelle Albright

Jeremy Alexander Carmona

summa cum laude

cum laude

Mariana Grace Ballard

Tiara Danielle Carter

cum laude

magna cum laude

Zoe Raine Blankenship

Deirdre Valayanna Clark

Morgan Destiny Blunt

magna cum laude

summa cum laude

Lennay Leann Farrish

Serina Kendall McDuffie
magna cum laude

Brittany McPhatter
magna cum laude

Cynthia Danielle Monroe
summa cum laude

Cayden Nesmith
cum laude

Deshara L. Penn

Jesselyn Posada
magna cum laude

Samarjit Satish Seshadri
cum laude

College of Hospitality & Business

Sunil Atreya, chair

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Emily Samantha Alcantara	Kaniya E. Mention
Javyre Jer’ea Brady	Stephanie Jeanette Moore
Jarod Anthony Clemente	Joshua Joel Mosley
Jasmine Danielle Sainvil Crayton	Ericka Nicole Parra
Joi Brien Fisher	Sterling P. Riddick
Chelsea Nicole Hobbs	Kendall Monique Ridenhour
Renee Jefferson	Brianna Nan’chea Smart
Brittany Ann Lattimore	Nayira Inez Warren
Darius S. MacKey	

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Aarionna Brown	Brittney Briaunca Owens
Neal Futrell	Daja Kierra Peterson-Bragg
Deja Monet Hemmingway	

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Lisa Marie Alston <i>cum laude</i>	Sara Danielle Bailey <i>summa cum laude</i>
Andreah Nicole Anderson	Gavin Rinehart Barbour <i>summa cum laude</i>
Theodore Anthony Antonopoulos <i>summa cum laude</i>	Turrockey Barnera
Caroline James Bailey <i>cum laude</i>	Aneesha Monique Battiste <i>summa cum laude</i>
	Brock Alan Begley

Jaylen Michael Benson-Hollinhead

John Alexander Billinis
magna cum laude

Jamal Dequann Bloome
summa cum laude

Alissa Elizabeth Bova
magna cum laude

Jasmine Isabella Brady
magna cum laude

Macie Leigh Braymiller
cum laude

Michael James Brewster

Maegan Anise Brookins

Archie Lamar Burton Jr.
magna cum laude

Jacqueline Cardenas Barrera
summa cum laude

Luis Fernando Carrillo
cum laude

Ashona Leanna Chan
cum laude

Marshall Brandon Cherry

Tahj Malik China
cum laude

Meadow Jade Ciccarella

Samuel Luis Josue Cicciarello

Hanna Lynn Ciplickas

Caleb Edward Cleary

Nicole Galvan Concepcion

Brenna Sinead Costigan
cum laude

Cayden Jayce Danzer
summa cum laude

Jayla Camille Davis-Lewis

Eugenio De La Parra Polina

Mia Amor De La Rosa
summa cum laude

Kayla A. Delgado
magna cum laude

Crystal R. Doane

Megan L. Dolby

Taneesha Danyel Dorsey

Drennan Ruby Ellis

Desiree O. Estes

Isabelle Rose Felke
cum laude

Terrance Antwane Fisher
cum laude

Alexis Ryan Gamez

Chanel Topacio Garcia

Hannah Elena Garcia

Kymmia Amor’e George

Lester Allen Gibson Jr.
cum laude

Benjamin Grant Gill
magna cum laude

Aly Gilstrap
summa cum laude

AJ Gonzaga

Hailie Anne Gordy

Mariah Lynn Green
summa cum laude

Trinity L. Hamlor	Olivia Amani Kingston
Jerome Peter Hargrow II	Marina Lucille Klee
Nyeisha Harris	Allie T. Kopetz
<i>cum laude</i>	<i>summa cum laude</i>
Matthew Caleb Hernandez	Autumn Rose Korr
<i>cum laude</i>	McKenna Renae Koski
Eden Grace Heston	Leah Faustina Lambert
Dylan Randall Hight	<i>magna cum laude</i>
Xavier Mehki Himes	Kylie Lantzy
Chelsea Nicole Hobbs	<i>magna cum laude</i>
<i>summa cum laude</i>	Lucas Burton Lesh
Caleb Wayne Hollenbaugh	<i>cum laude</i>
Yarnell Denise Carmen Hunte	Emma Levick
Kendra Faith Ingle	Michelle Lopez
Mary E. Irvin	<i>magna cum laude</i>
<i>cum laude</i>	Sofia Nicole Mageau
Cannon Christopher Jackson	<i>cum laude</i>
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Stephanie Claro Malena
Andrew Ervin Johnson	<i>magna cum laude</i>
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Gianna Rose Mancini
Chalena Danielle Johnson	<i>summa cum laude</i>
Keinan Antonio Johnson	Andrew Louis Mannino
Znyah Ema-Jean Johnson	Cara Susan Martino
<i>cum laude</i>	<i>summa cum laude</i>
Claire Elizabeth Jones	Kathleen Belen Mascardo
MiKayla Y. Jones	<i>summa cum laude</i>
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Angelique Latoya McCormick
Calen Robert Jordan	<i>summa cum laude</i>
Peyton Reece Kimbrell	O’Brina Sonora Mckinley
<i>cum laude</i>	McCoy
Gabrielle Brianna King	Makiya Lashell McDaniel
<i>summa cum laude</i>	

Angie Elizabeth Mendoza-Medina <i>cum laude</i>	Lacyna Brie’ann Lyvonja Redmond <i>magna cum laude</i>
Shayla Moné Miller	Savannah Jo Riley
Valeria Montero	Caleb Ezra Risher <i>summa cum laude</i>
Candace Lorraine Morrison	Erma Elyse-Lee Robello
Nigel Cyril Monroe Murrell	Gabriella Angelina Rodondi
Alexis N. Nauss <i>summa cum laude</i>	Kadia Amelia Anya Rucker <i>cum laude</i>
Luke A. Norum <i>cum laude</i>	Jayvin D. Rumph
Wilder Harris Noyes	Bernicia Oniqua Ryan <i>cum laude</i>
Adewale Jeremiah Ohonme	Paula Dolores Sanchez
Haley MaryAnn Pandure <i>cum laude</i>	Hyjah Nyako Admiral Saner
Mahi Patel	Demetria Irene Sarafis <i>magna cum laude</i>
Dexinni Lachelle Pettis <i>cum laude</i>	Charles Gordon Schuttler
Tram Huyen Pham <i>summa cum laude</i>	Glenda Scott <i>summa cum laude</i>
Zharia Nech’e Pierce	Danyelle Shaw
Albert John Plasencio <i>magna cum laude</i>	Bryanna Q. Simons
Alexis Maya Polite <i>summa cum laude</i>	Britton Lee Singleton
Ahvay Kiaya Powell	Floyd Anthony Smith
Paul Preston V <i>magna cum laude</i>	Larissa Corinne Smith <i>cum laude</i>
Jessica Susann Ralph <i>magna cum laude</i>	Landon Tahir lowery Stanback
Ian Lucca Ramirez Villamar	Donovan Leroy Stephens
Zachary Randall <i>magna cum laude</i>	Ameena Lawanna Sutton
	Sophia Tilme
	Alysha Marie Trujillo <i>cum laude</i>

Eva Christine Van Acker <i>summa cum laude</i>	Anna Gabriel Wauchope <i>cum laude</i>
Hannah Malia Varner	Imani Marie Welch
Camila Margarita Velasquez <i>magna cum laude</i>	Sydney Haesuk Wells
Kaiya Lee Vestal	Norritta Makayla West <i>cum laude</i>
Parker Deacon Vice	Kelsie Anniya Marie Wickham <i>cum laude</i>
Mitchell Omar Villanueva	Victoria Ann Williams <i>magna cum laude</i>
Zoie Elyce Vincent <i>summa cum laude</i>	Edeisha Joanna Wilson
Rathdaphone Vongdeuane <i>magna cum laude</i>	Suni F. Wilson <i>summa cum laude</i>
Tiffany R. Wade <i>magna cum laude</i>	Javion T. Zachary
Justin Joseph Wagner <i>cum laude</i>	

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Carter James Bonini <i>magna cum laude</i>	Jaime Demetrick Green
Kylah Joy Carter <i>cum laude</i>	Juan Pablo Hernandez <i>summa cum laude</i>
Sandro M. Collao	Erica Lynn Little <i>magna cum laude</i>
Hugo Marc Stephane Cossais <i>magna cum laude</i>	Jamariah Zavionna Lowery
Ashford Parker Davidson <i>cum laude</i>	Nathan Meshida
Brianna Flood <i>summa cum laude</i>	Jordyn Avery Miller <i>magna cum laude</i>
Lucy Louise Gearhart	Kelley Mina Velez
Sekina Lattrice Gillins <i>magna cum laude</i>	Laura Muniz <i>cum laude</i>
	Dillon R. Neeley <i>cum laude</i>

Zamya Sanford-Johnson <i>cum laude</i>	Dylan Craig Steeves <i>summa cum laude</i>
Jacobo Santos Arias <i>cum laude</i>	Charles A. Thornton III
Jonathan C. Shembo	Christy Michelle Toombs
Ethan Alexander Smith <i>magna cum laude</i>	Alexander Spyros Tsoukalas
Emily Lynn Spies <i>cum laude</i>	Cindy Lucia Villeda
	Tra’nasia Trenea Washington
	Troi Renée Wortham
	Lena Zook <i>magna cum laude</i>

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

Starlett Brown <i>magna cum laude</i>	Kierra Lashaun Edmond <i>summa cum laude</i>
Anna Marie Coleman	Hakeem Rashard Ravenel
Mallory Dover <i>summa cum laude</i>	Krystle Shannon Sylver

Honors Status

University Honors Scholar status indicates one of the highest academic honors awarded by the university: successful student participation in the JWU Honors Program and completion of an Honors Thesis. Through this four-year program, academically advanced students receive an honors-caliber education that enriches the university curriculum and builds a diverse community of scholars.

Students who participate in the Honors Program and achieve an overall 3.6 GPA can graduate with one of three honors designations.

Chancellor’s Honors Scholar: 24 credits of honors-designated courses including 6 credits of research

President’s Honors Scholar: 18 credits of honors-designated courses including 6 credits of research

Provost’s Honors Scholar: 12 credits of honors-designated courses including 6 credits of honors-designated courses at the 2000-level or higher and 6 credits of research

University Leadership

Board of Trustees

- John E. Taylor Jr., chair of the board, Johnson & Wales University; managing director, Faulkner & Howe LLC, Vero Beach, Florida
- Clay A. Snyder '93, vice chair of the board, Johnson & Wales University; senior director of customer engagement, Hilton Supply Management, McLean, Virginia
- Mim L. Runey, LP.D., chancellor, Johnson & Wales University
- Maribeth N. Bisienere, former senior vice president, operations; Walt Disney World® Resort, Celebration, Florida
- Joye D. Blount, president, Knight Angels Consulting LLC, Charlotte, North Carolina
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- Shivan S. Subramaniam, retired chairman and chief executive officer, FM Global, Providence, Rhode Island

Officers of the Corporation

- Mim L. Runey, LP.D., chancellor
- Joseph Greene '89, '98 M.S., CPA, vice chancellor and Providence Campus president
- Danielle Santamaria '13 MBA, CPA, chief financial officer
- Emily A. Gilcreast '19 MBA, university secretary

Symbols of Commencement

University Seal

The university seal represents Johnson & Wales University's roots. The year at the top of the shield, 1914, is the year that the university was founded by Gertrude I. Johnson and Mary T. Wales. The dragon of St. George on the upper portion of the crest honors the Wales family, while the lower portion of the crest bears the cross of St. John and honors the Johnson family.

Mace

The Johnson & Wales University mace symbolizes the ideals and values of JWU's educational philosophy. Cast of silver and bronze, it is engraved with the names of our chancellors, past and present. Our campus locations are engraved on the golden bands. On ceremonial occasions, university officials carry the mace to display the unity and continuity of Johnson & Wales University.

The mace dates to medieval times, when it was first used as a weapon. Forbidden to use swords, medieval European bishops were allowed to enter battle with a mace — typically an iron or steel club designed to split armor. By the 16th century, the mace had become a symbol of authority that colleges and universities began using ceremonially. That tradition continues today, and the mace is carried as part of formal academic occasions at colleges and universities across the globe.

Academic Dress

The tradition of wearing distinctive dress for academic reasons dates back to the Middle Ages. Today, academic costumes are usually worn in the United States by people participating in academic ceremonies.

The faculty and platform party wear regalia representative of the degrees they possess.

The academic dress worn by graduates at today's ceremony are 100% certified recycled polyester fabric that can be recycled and made into future gown products, helping to divert from landfills. Each recycled gown saves 29 plastic bottles from landfills, reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 1.5 pounds, and saves half a gallon of gasoline.

Hoods

Originating from the cowls of monastic orders, the hoods are the most distinctive part of the academic regalia. Their shape and size indicate the level of degree attained, and the colors reflect both the academic field as well as the institution that granted the degree.

The degrees most frequently represented in JWU academic processions are as follows:

DEGREE	COLOR
Bachelor of Arts	White
Bachelor/Master of Business Administration	Drab
Bachelor/Master of Science	Gold
Master/Doctor of Education	Light Blue
Master of Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Master of Public Health	Salmon

Caps

There is more variety in the shape and color of academic hats than in any other area. Master’s and doctoral degree recipients wear the tassel on the left throughout the ceremony, and the doctoral soft-cap often features a gold tassel.

Gold Cord Honors

Eligible undergraduate degree candidates receive cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude recognition according to their cumulative academic program average. Graduating students are eligible to receive Latin honors if their GPA is within the following range: cum laude, 3.50–3.69; magna cum laude, 3.70–3.89; summa cum laude, 3.90–4.00.

Blue and White Cords

Eligible undergraduate degree candidates who have participated in co-curricular activities and maintain academic integrity as designated by university parameters are distinguished by a blue and white cord.

Disclosures

Diplomas will be awarded upon completion of all university requirements.

The commencement program listing contains the names of students meeting eligibility criteria and submitted for publication as of April 10, 2026. Names that are listed in the commencement program should not be used as an indicator of degree completion. Students must satisfy all graduation requirements before officially graduating and receiving a diploma.

To Attendees of this Event:

Johnson & Wales University has hired professional photographers/videographers to capture images of this graduation for use in educational and promotional materials. Attendance at this event constitutes each individual's consent to Johnson & Wales University to have their image and voice recorded and retransmitted for any and all purposes at the university's discretion. If you do not agree with the foregoing, please see a university special events staff member.

For the safety of everyone in attendance and to comply with local fire department regulations, guests are requested to remain in their seats during the program. Ushers are stationed at the foot of each aisle should you need assistance.

For your convenience, the commencement ceremony is being professionally photographed by Grad Images®. For information on ordering photos, please contact Grad Images® at 800-261-2576 or visit gradimages.com. The ceremony is also being [streamed live](#).

