



COMMENCEMENT

Class of 2022

GRADUATE STUDIES

Providence, Rhode Island

May 6, 2022



Dear Class of 2022,

Today we are here to celebrate you — the members of the Johnson & Wales University graduating Class of 2022. This day marks the culmination of your journey defined by hard work, resilience and the courage to keep going through unprecedented times. Congratulations on arriving at this moment!

Earning your graduate degree is an extraordinary achievement. As you prepare to cross the stage today to receive your diploma, take a moment to think about all of the people who helped you get here — your family and friends, your professors, advisors, mentors and staff. We are so proud of what you have accomplished.

Over the past two years, you have pursued your education during a global pandemic that has reset the course of history, disrupted our economy and reshaped our lives. I remain in awe of how you have nimbly adjusted to so much change and uncertainty, and how you continue to adapt to meet the challenges of our time.

The education and opportunities you have experienced while attending Johnson & Wales University have prepared you for what lies ahead. I know that you will embrace the future with the purpose and determination you have shown throughout your time at JWU.

Your feeling of belonging to the Providence Campus will deepen over time as you benefit from your Johnson & Wales degree and alumni connections. You will always have a home at JWU. You are Wildcats for life. As an alumna myself, I am humbled to be a part of this remarkable JWU alumni family.

Now, it is time to make your mark on the world. Like so many who have come before you at JWU, I know you will find success in your professional pursuits.

On behalf of the entire university community, we are so grateful you chose JWU and wish you all the best for a bright future.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Bernardo-Sousa".

Marie Bernardo-Sousa, LP.D., '92
President, Providence Campus

JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY: FUTURE LEADERS START HERE

Founded in 1914, Johnson & Wales University is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with nearly 8,700 graduate, undergraduate and online students at its campuses in Providence, Rhode Island and Charlotte, North Carolina. An innovative educational leader, the university offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in arts and sciences, business, engineering, food innovation, hospitality, nutrition, and health and wellness. It also offers undergraduate programs in culinary arts, dietetics and design. 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 125 countries pursuing careers worldwide. For more information, visit jwu.edu.



A COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY

As an innovative and comprehensive university, Johnson & Wales University is committed to preparing students for careers and leadership in diverse industries. The university is invested in supporting every student's journey to fulfilling their academic potential, professional ambitions and personal aspirations.

Johnson & Wales continues to be a prominent global leader in the academic sphere, with a robust international and national student population. Today we are honored to host international students representing 65 countries, an integral part of our university's dynamic community. High-impact, engaged learning is at the heart of what the university does, including the opportunities we offer for students to participate in the 56 study abroad and exchange programs in 31 countries.

The university is powered by a belief that every student deserves a high-quality education that can prepare them for success in a meaningful career. The university prioritizes a teacher-scholar model and celebrates scholarship and research. The community nurtures an academic culture that embodies discovery, creativity and intellectual curiosity. Our faculty strive to instill in our graduates adaptable thinking, professionalism and the quest for lifelong learning. It is in this spirit that we send our 2022 graduates into the world, eager to see how they will make their own indelible marks on industry, academia, government and community.

Order of Exercises

PROCESSION

Commencement Marshal — Michael R. Fein, Ph.D., dean, John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences

Commencement Marshal — Mary J. Meixell, Ph.D., dean, College of Business

Commencement Marshal — Laura Galligan, Ph.D., dean, College of Health & Wellness

Commencement Marshal — David R. Cartwright, Ed.D., CPA, dean, College of Professional Studies

Candidates for Degrees

Faculty of the Colleges

Platform Party led by Mace Bearer — Richard Wiscott, Ph.D., provost

WELCOME

Marie Bernardo-Sousa, LP.D., '92, president, Providence Campus

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Kim M. Frenze

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Marie Bernardo-Sousa

CLASS OF 2022 STUDENT ADDRESS

Melissa Denton '22 Ed.D.

GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Kurt Heissenbuttel, LP.D., '05, head of manager and leader excellence, Fidelity Investments

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATE

Richard Wiscott

CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DEGREE

Robert Bruce Stiles '80, founding principal and managing director, RobertDouglas

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

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Robert Bruce Stiles '80, '22 Hon.

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL AND GRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Richard Wiscott

CONFERRAL OF DOCTORAL AND GRADUATE DEGREES

Mim L. Runey

RECESSIONAL

Student Speaker

MELISSA DENTON '22 Ed.D.

Doctor of Education

Melissa Denton began her teaching career in 1990 as a special educator in a residential special education school in Rhode Island before transitioning a year later to Westerly Public Schools as a middle school special educator. She held numerous leadership positions there before joining the Narragansett School System in 2020 as their director of student services. Early in her career, she worked with colleagues to develop the strategies to give her students with moderate disabilities access to the general education classroom with their peers by co-teaching. She shared these experiences of inclusive education locally and nationwide by offering workshops, speaking at national conferences, and publishing articles.

An adjunct professor in JWU's M.A.T. program, Denton has served as a fellow for the Rhode Island Department of Education and earned her National Board Certification as an Exceptional Needs Specialist in 2006. She is an active member of the Association of Rhode Island Administrators of Special Education where she serves on the Mentorship Program Committee and the executive board as the secretary. She is a mother of two children, Kelsey and Garrett. She is also the proud "Gigi" to her granddaughter, Leah.



Alumni Speaker

KURT HEISSEN BUTTEL, L.P.D., '05

Head of Manager & Leader Excellence

Fidelity Investments

Kurt Heissenbuttel, L.P.D., graduated in 2005 from the Providence Campus with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports/Event/Entertainment Management. He was a student assistant as well as a member of the Collegiate Ambassador Team and JA's Achievers Speakers Corps. Upon graduation, he held the role of event manager at The Biltmore Estate before returning to JWU to pursue a position in external communications. Heissenbuttel continued his career in higher education at Northeastern University where he held a variety of roles from marketing and programming, to domestic and international recruitment. He led a team of admissions professionals that recruited, selected and enrolled Northeastern's undergraduate class. He joined Fidelity in 2016 as the vice president of university relations; today as head of manager and leader excellence, he and his team are responsible for assessing and developing the skills and capabilities of Fidelity's 7,000+ managers and leaders. Heissenbuttel holds a master in education degree in higher education from Suffolk University and a doctorate of law and policy from Northeastern University.

Honorary Degree Recipient



ROBERT BRUCE STILES '80

Doctor of Business Administration

A proud JWU graduate, Robert Bruce Stiles is a founding principal and managing director of the national hotel investment banking platform, RobertDouglas, based in California. He specializes in structuring and executing capital solutions for investors and owners of hotel real estate and brand and management platforms.

Prior to his role at RobertDouglas, Stiles was the co-head of the National Hospitality Group at Cushman & Wakefield Sonnenblick-Goldman. Before joining Sonnenblick-Goldman, he was a founding partner and group managing director of HorwathHTL in Hong Kong and Singapore, where he spent 15 years responsible for advising both U.S. and Asian clients on over \$5 billion in development, finance and investment transactions across Asia.

Stiles is a recipient of the Jack A. Shaffer National Financial Advisor of the Year Award, serves on the International Advisory Board of *HOTELS Investment Outlook* magazine, and is the founder of HICAP (HICAPconference.com), Asia's premiere hotel investment conference in Hong Kong. He has an Associate in Science degree in Culinary Arts from Johnson & Wales University and a bachelor of science degree with a focus in development and finance from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration.

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership
Degree Recipients

ANDREA ELYSSE BLAIR

Teacher Perceptions of their Online High School Mathematics Course Instruction During the COVID-19 Pandemic

B.A., M.S., The University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Major Advisor: Stacey L. Kite, DBA

JENNIFER LYNN BOULAY

Acting in the Academy: The Lived Experience of Female Interim Leaders in Higher Education

A.A., Bristol Community College; B.A., M.P.A., Brown University

Major Advisor: Felice D. Billups, Ed.D.

LYDIA BEA CAMARA

The Glass Ceiling in the Academy: Lived Experiences of Female College Presidents

B.S., Johnson & Wales University; MBA, University of Phoenix

Major Advisor: Felice D. Billups, Ed.D.

MELISSA SUE DENTON

Specially Designed Instruction: Regulations Require It But Are Beginning Special Educators Ready to Provide It?

B.S., M.Ed., Rhode Island College

Major Advisor: Victor Mercurio, Ed.D

KEVIN J. MCNAMARA

Principals' Perceptions of Social Media and Its Influence on School Climate in Small Northeastern States

B.A., M.Ed., Providence College

Major Advisor: Stacey L. Kite, DBA

ANGELINA MARIE O'BRIEN MEDEIROS

Insights into Leadership: An Exploration of Information Technology and Institutional Research and Their Contributions to Data Governance

B.A., Providence College; M.A., C.A.G.S., Rhode Island College

Major Advisor: Jack R. Warner, Ed.D.

ALEXANDRA ATKINS LYNN PULEO

COVID-19 Emergency Remote Teaching: Urban Educators' Self-Efficacy and Perceptions Teaching English Language Arts to Multilingual Learners

B.S., M.Ed., Rhode Island College

Major Advisor: Victor Mercurio, Ed.D.

WILLIAM JACKSON REILLY

The Relationship Between Data-Informed Decision Making and Teacher Collaboration

B.S., Stonehill College; M.Ed., Rhode Island College

Major Advisor: Stacey L. Kite, DBA

ELIZABETH ELAINE FISHER SULLIVAN

Equity & Online Higher Education: An Explanatory Mixed Methods Study of Innovation Adoption, Inter-Rater Reliability, and Perceptions of the Peralta Online Equity Rubric

B.A., M.A., University of Rhode Island

Major Advisor: Stacey L. Kite, DBA

Doctor of Business Administration
Degree Recipients

MORGAN ALEXANDRIA BLOUNT

Crisis Leadership: An Examination of Effective Leadership Styles and Mindset

Major Advisor: Karen Silva, Ph.D.

STEVE CANNELLA

Personality-Based Career Exploration: Developing a Talent Compass

Major Advisor: Kristen Regine, DBA

BRYAN JAMES COLEMAN

Investigating the Influences of Leadership Style on Job Burnout and Employee Turnover Intentions in Public Accounting

Major Advisor: Julie Bilodeau, DBA

DAMON WAYNARD JOHNSON

**Followers' Age-Based and Culture-Based Perceptions of Leadership and Follower Effectiveness
in Information Technology Organizations**

Major Advisor: Letta Campbell, D.M.

HEATHER L. KUHNS

The Influence of Non-Profit Social Media Messaging

Major Advisor: Michelle Rego, Ph.D.

DIEAGO MILLER

Leadership Style and Its Influence on Employee Engagement in the Non-Alcoholic Beverage Industry

Major Advisor: Donald Schoffstall, Ph.D.

TIFFANY NGUYEN

The Exploration of Employee Experience (EX), Happiness and Performance: Is There a Relationship?

Major Advisor: Julie Bilodeau, DBA

*Doctor of Occupational Therapy
Degree Recipients*

LIA ROSE CUCINOTTA

The Impact of Assistive Technology on Social-Emotional Learning from a Teacher Perspective

B.A.S., University of Rhode Island

Major Advisor: Nancy Dooley, Ph.D., OTR/L, CDP

LYDIA GRACE GRUBER

Development of a Career Program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

B.A.S., Miami University — Oxford

Major Advisor: Rebecca Simon, Ed.D., OTR/L, FAOTA

JESSICA ANN KARCHER

Sensory Education for Staff Working in an Adult Day Habilitation Center

B.S., University of New England

Major Advisor: Nancy Dooley, Ph.D., OTR/L, CDP

MATTHEW KARL LICHTER

Parental Perspective on Functional Behavior Post Hippotherapy

B.A., University of Northern Colorado

Major Advisor: Rebecca Simon, Ed.D., OTR/L, FAOTA

SUKHMAN KAUR MATHARU

Improving Teacher Knowledge of Sensory Strategies in Elementary Classrooms

B.S., Fitchburg State University

Major Advisor: Rebecca Simon, Ed.D., OTR/L, FAOTA

KIMBERLI JOY MURPHY*

Reliability Testing and Implementation of the ASSIST Functional Performance Index

B.S., Franklin Pierce University; M.S., Canisius College

Major Advisor: Andrea Fairman, Ph.D., OTR/L, CPRP

KELLY ANN O'BRIEN

Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Mothers of Children with Disabilities

B.S., Virginia Commonwealth University

Major Advisor: Nancy Dooley, Ph.D., OTR/L, CDP

EMILY JEAN RINDERMANN

The Impact of Senior Center Programming to Enhance Community Mobility

B.S., California Polytechnic State University — San Luis Obispo

Major Advisor: Nancy Dooley, Ph.D., OTR/L, CDP

LEILA CLAIRE SCHAPER

Development of Site-Specific Programming and Policies to Support Level II Fieldwork in a Role-Emerging Practice Area

B.S., Pennsylvania State University

Major Advisor: Jennifer Swanberg, Ph.D., OTR/L

ASHIKA SANJIV SHAH

Transition to Motherhood: Importance of Occupational Balance in Working Moms

B.S., Simmons College

Major Advisor: Jennifer Swanberg, Ph.D., OTR/L

JULIA ELIZABETH TESTORI

At-Home Educational Resources for Caregivers of Children with Feeding Difficulties

B.A., University of Connecticut

Major Advisor: Rebecca Simon, Ed.D., OTR/L, FAOTA

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies
Degree Recipients

Anastasia Elyse Allfather
Lauren Elizabeth Berube
Michelle Olukemi Bland
Dana Snowden Blumer
Megan Rose Botton
Amanda Boyle
Lindsey Leigh Brown
Alexa Marie Carten
Chelsea Jayne Convissar
Alyssa Nicole Dendary
Sarah Di
Sean Thomas Foley

Brittany Tyler Genest
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Grecia Restituyo
Olivia Victoria Smith
Clemmie Jo Taets
Victoria Amelia Teixeira
Nathan Albert Wigton Bell



Master of Arts in Teaching
Degree Recipients

CULINARY ARTS EDUCATION

Juliet Lynn Faas
Kayla Makenzie Feathers
Matthew Robert Hall

Elizabeth Leah Johnson
Shakira De'vondra McBride
Gianna M. Penta

Seong Woo Shin
William S. Wallbank
Shensheng Wang

TEACHER EDUCATION

Business/Secondary Special Education

Joy Hennessey
Raymond Victor Soccio Jr.

Elementary/Elementary Special Education

Molly Fox
Gabrielle Maya Hatem
Nicole J. Palermo
Josephine M. Sanky-Santilli

Sofia Olinda Silva
Philip Jose DaSilva Torres
Robert Sumner Turne



Master of Education
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Gretchen Lee Petrie
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Master of Business Administration
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Jillian Antonia Colon
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Greer Elizabeth Yoder

SPORT LEADERSHIP

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Kyler Alan Fowkes

Katelyn Laura Garand
Isaac Daniel Gevov

Brendan Sean Moriarty
Jenna Nicole Pare



Master of Science Degree Recipients

ADDICTION COUNSELING

Katherine Mary Akikie
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Malik Akim Smith
Pheadra Nichelle Wyche

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April Bates
Jodie-Ann Alecia Douglas
Oyemwen Edebiri

Michael Thomas Italia
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Christian M. King
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Chavon R. Perry
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Emily Anne Lucas
Michelle K. Mooney

Clark William Outridge
Amanda Claire Ryan
Rebecca M. Taber



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 11, 2022. Names that are printed 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.

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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.

After the ceremony, guests may join the graduates outside under the marquee of the Dunkin' Donuts Center. 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 online at gradimages.com. The ceremony is also being streamed live at <http://portal.stretchinternet.com/jwuri>.

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 like these 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 back into future gown products, helping to divert from landfills. Following the ceremony, graduates can drop their gowns in the nearest Renew Gown collection box and keep their cap and tassel as mementos of their achievement. 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 fields of study most frequently represented in academic processions are the following:

FIELD OF STUDY	COLOR
Arts	Gold
Business, Commerce, Fine Arts, Science	Drab
Education	Light Blue
Occupational Therapy	Slate Blue
Physician Assistant Studies	Green

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.

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.*