



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 written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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.

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

Jessica Ann Guerra

Dee Lao

Takyla NaQuan Lyons

Chaitanya Mantrala

Ashley Lauren Miles

Ashley Nicole Pair

Beatrice Joanne Robinson

Jeremy Ramon Thuesdee

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Karly Jade Harris

summa cum laude

Christi Teasley Soni

summa cum laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Zoe Savara Balmer

magna cum laude

Jayla Serenity Craddock

summa cum laude

Teagan Cassidy Bradford

magna cum laude

Zonae D. Davey

magna cum laude

Madison Paige Brown

magna cum laude

Kimberly M. Deaton

magna cum laude

Dustin Jacob Clark

magna cum laude

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
magna cum laude

summa cum laude

Elani Patrice Bailey
summa cum laude

Direka Marie Gordon
summa cum laude

Cassandra LeeAnn Bayes

Keri Antranique Harrell
cum laude

Jordan Beall

Diamond Hazzard

Christiana Elizabeth Bell²
summa cum laude

Alexcia A. Jackson
magna cum laude

Anthony Keith Bias

Joi Trinity-Nevaeh Jackson

Branden Eugene Omar Blair

Sky Kaniya Jones

Sierra Kennedy Blair
summa cum laude

Fatima Khurshid Khan

Whittany Eboni Burgess

Christopher Matthew Krieps

Arielle Marie Chavis

Levi Timothy Lambert
summa cum laude

Denise Gwen Cruz Diaz
magna cum laude

Deven Letton
magna cum laude

Arrianna Anastasia Ebert

Timothy Qin Li

Anthony Rayshawn Gainer

Alexis Ayanna Livingston
cum laude

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

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

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

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. Bholá	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'nyque 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
Cheyenne 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 Howard <i>summa cum laude</i>
Acelynn Renae Givens <i>magna cum laude</i>	

Amirah LaRue Hunt
magna cum laude

Nyigel J. Hunter

Mary E. Irvin
cum laude

Ericiya Ajanae Jackson

Harmony Nevaeh Jacobs
magna cum laude

Samantha Claire Jacobs

A’Nyah Dejanelle James-
Britton

Eva Margaret Jernigan
magna cum laude

Alanna Sanai Johnson

Anonee Akeelah Johnson

Chalena Danielle Johnson

Jamesha Ishmell Johnson
magna cum laude

Ashlyn Gabrielle Jones
magna cum laude

Dane Andrew Jones
summa cum laude

Riley Elise Jones

Andriy Juan-Antunez

Skylar Delise Keliiholokai

Sydney Kelley

Olivia Michelina Kieffer

Caleb Allan Dandridge
Kiekenapp
magna cum laude

Chloe C. Kratenstein

Lucas A. Kuhn

Ruby Aurora Kathryn Lane
Shanaya Laney

Jaiden Delroy Laqua

Annika Caroline Lawrence

Samara Naomi Lawton
magna cum laude

Dylan David Lewis

Merrick Gabriel Lewis

Kalin Renee Lincoln

Dakota Lynn Loan

Ronald Edward Logan

Jazmyne Laschea Long

Katalina Lopez
magna cum laude

Reed Michael Lusk
summa cum laude

Gianna Rose Mancini
summa cum laude

Brooke Alyssa Mann
magna cum laude

Andrew Louis Mannino

Ryan Thomas Margeson
summa cum laude

Iris Alexia Marroquin

Mikayla Astasia Marshall

Brigney Martinez-Lopez
cum laude

Zora Nia Massey

Gordon Scott Mathews III
cum laude

Debbry Nduta Mburu
magna cum laude

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

magna cum laude

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

summa cum laude

Jeremy Alexander Carmona

cum laude

Mariana Grace Ballard

cum laude

Tiara Danielle Carter

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

Javyre Jer'ea Brady

Jarod Anthony Clemente

Jasmine Danielle Sainvil
Crayton

Joi Brien Fisher

Chelsea Nicole Hobbs

Renee Jefferson

Brittany Ann Lattimore

Darius S. MacKey

Kaniya E. Mention

Stephanie Jeanette Moore

Joshua Joel Mosley

Ericka Nicole Parra

Sterling P. Riddick

Kendall Monique Ridenhour

Brianna Nan'chea Smart

Nayira Inez Warren

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Aarionna Brown

Neal Futrell

Deja Monet Hemmingway

Brittney Briaunca Owens

Daja Kierra Peterson-Bragg

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Lisa Marie Alston
cum laude

Andreah Nicole Anderson

Theodore Anthony
Antonopoulos
summa cum laude

Caroline James Bailey
cum laude

Sara Danielle Bailey
summa cum laude

Gavin Rinehart Barbour
summa cum laude

Turrockey Barnera

Aneesha Monique Battiste
summa cum laude

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 Ciccarello

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

Angie Elizabeth Mendoza-
Medina
cum laude

Shayla Moné Miller

Valeria Montero

Candace Lorraine Morrison

Nigel Cyril Monroe Murrell

Alexis N. Nauss
summa cum laude

Luke A. Norum
cum laude

Wilder Harris Noyes

Adeiwale Jeremiah Ohonme

Haley MaryAnn Pandure
cum laude

Mahi Patel

Dexinni Lachelle Pettis
cum laude

Tram Huyen Pham
summa cum laude

Zharia Nech'e Pierce

Albert John Plasencio
magna cum laude

Alexis Maya Polite
summa cum laude

Ahvay Kiaya Powell

Paul Preston V
magna cum laude

Jessica Susann Ralph
magna cum laude

Ian Lucca Ramirez Villamar

Zachary Randall
magna cum laude

Lacyna Brie'ann Lyvonja
Redmond
magna cum laude

Savannah Jo Riley

Caleb Ezra Risher
summa cum laude

Erma Elyse-Lee Robello

Gabriella Angelina Rodondi

Kadia Amelia Anya Rucker
cum laude

Jayvin D. Rumph

Bernicia Oniqua Ryan
cum laude

Paula Dolores Sanchez

Hyjah Nyako Admiral Saner

Demetria Irene Sarafis
magna cum laude

Charles Gordon Schuttler

Glenda Scott
summa cum laude

Danyelle Shaw

Bryanna Q. Simons

Britton Lee Singleton

Floyd Anthony Smith

Larissa Corinne Smith
cum laude

Landon Tahir lowery Stanback

Donovan Leroy Stephens

Ameena Lawanna Sutton

Sophia Tilme

Alysha Marie Trujillo
cum laude

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
cum laude

Jacobo Santos Arias
cum laude

Jonathan C. Shembo

Ethan Alexander Smith
magna cum laude

Emily Lynn Spies
cum laude

Dylan Craig Steeves
summa cum laude

Charles A. Thornton III

Christy Michelle Toombs

Alexander Spyros Tsoukalas

Cindy Lucia Villeda

Tra'nasia Trenea Washington

Troi Renée Wortham

Lena Zook
magna cum laude

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

Starlett Brown
magna cum laude

Anna Marie Coleman

Mallory Dover
summa cum laude

Kierra Lashaun Edmond
summa cum laude

Hakeem Rashard Ravenel

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

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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](#).

