



Class of 2026

COMMENCEMENT

Graduate Studies

Providence, Rhode Island

May 2, 2026

10 a.m.

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Congratulations, Class of 2026!



Today, we come together to celebrate you — your accomplishments, your growth, and the incredible journey that brought you to this moment. It is an honor to stand with you as you reach this important milestone.

Your time at Johnson & Wales has shaped you in ways big and small. You've learned, created, explored and persevered. You've built relationships, found communities that have become part of who you are, and developed the confidence and resilience that will guide you in whatever comes next. As a proud JWU alumnus myself, it means a great deal to welcome you into our alumni family — a network of Wildcats who continue to uplift, inspire and support one another long after graduation.

Here at JWU, we talk about The Wildcat Way. But for us, it's not just a saying — it's a way of living. Pride, courage, character and community have been at the heart of your experience here. You have shown these values in your work, in your compassion for others, and in the way you've carried yourselves on this campus. I hope you bring those values with you into the world. They are part of what makes you a Wildcat for life.

As you move forward, embrace the uncertainty and possibility ahead. Stay curious, open and connected to your passions, to the people who matter, and to the Wildcat community that will always be here for you. You are prepared, capable and ready for whatever comes next. We are so proud of you, and we cannot wait to see the future you will build.

With heartfelt congratulations,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Greene". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Joseph Greene '89, '98 M.S., CPA
vice chancellor and Providence Campus president

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

Michael R. Fein, Ph.D.

dean, John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences

Jason R. Evans, Ph.D.

dean, College of Food Innovation & Technology

Maura Daly Iversen, DPT, SD, MPH

dean, College of Health & Wellness

Jennifer A. Galipeau, Ed.D., '87, '92 M.S.

dean, College of Hospitality & Business

Cynthia L. Parker, Ed.D., '09 MBA

vice president, JWU Online

Candidates for Degrees

Faculty of the Colleges

Platform Party

led by mace bearer Terry Novak, Ph.D.

chair, University Faculty Council; professor,

John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences

WELCOME

Joseph Greene '89, '98 M.S., CPA

vice chancellor and Providence Campus president

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Kim M. Frenze

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Joseph Greene

CLASS OF 2026 STUDENT ADDRESS

Andrea Hernandez '01, '26 M.S.

GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Katelyn Larsson '17 MSPAS, PA-C
*associate medical director,
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care*

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATE

Richard Wiscott, Ph.D.
provost

CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DEGREE

Aby Alexander
founder, president and CEO, BroadSat Technologies

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

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Aby Alexander '26 Hon.

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

Richard Wiscott

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Mim L. Runey

RECESSIONAL

Student Speaker

ANDREA HERNANDEZ '01, '26 M.S.

Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics

Andrea Hernandez is a bilingual registered dietitian nutritionist with over 20 years of combined experience in the fields of culinary arts, nutrition and dietetics. Raised by Puerto Rican parents in East Harlem, New York, Hernandez learned that food was more than nourishment — it was connection, celebration and love. After earning her bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts and Food Service Management, she launched a diverse career, from navigating male-dominated professional kitchens to co-creating the public-access show “Sister, You Can Cook” and the catering business My Sister's Creations.

Teaching kids to cook in an after-school program and preparing meals for VIP patients at New York-Presbyterian Hospital helped Hernandez recognize the critical link between nutrition and healing — and inspired her career change to become a registered dietitian. The experience also fostered in her a love of teaching. She returned to her roots in East Harlem to help her community recognize food as medicine in the management of chronic illnesses.

Today, she is the first in her family to earn a master's degree. Looking forward, she aims to become a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist and a college professor, fueled by a desire to spark “Aha!” moments in others. Her life stands as a testament to resilience, proving that food is not just nourishment, but a powerful tool for community transformation.

Alumni Speaker

KATELYN LARSSON '17 MSPAS, PA-C

*associate medical director,
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care*

Katelyn Larsson's extensive background in clinical practice and patient care reflects her strong focus on healthcare delivery within community settings. In addition to her current role as associate medical director at Blackstone Valley Community Health Care, Larsson serves as a JWU adjunct faculty member in the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program, demonstrating a capacity for academic and clinical instruction in the program from which she graduated. She is also a physician assistant at CharterCARE Health Partners, applying her knowledge of treatment planning and clinical assessment to support patient well-being.

Prior to these roles, Larsson was a medical scribe at the University Emergency Medicine Foundation and an emergency medical technician at Professional Ambulance. These positions provided a foundation in emergency medicine and pediatric patient support — two of her passions today.

Larsson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and in Psychology from Roger Williams University. She is also certified in Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support. She values staying up-to-date with new medical research to provide her patients with the highest quality of care — and being a strong role model for future generations.

Honorary Degree Recipient

ABY ALEXANDER

Doctor of Business Administration



Aby Alexander, founder, president and CEO of BroadSat Technologies, is a visionary leader advancing next-generation connectivity to bridge the global digital divide. Through his leadership, he is redefining how networks are built — integrating broadcast, broadband and AI to deliver critical services such as telemedicine, remote learning, emergency

communications and Smart City solutions to underserved communities. He leads the development of BroadSat Edge, an AI-enabled content delivery and connectivity platform that extends intelligence from towers to edge devices, enabling resilient, scalable and inclusive digital infrastructure.

Alexander believes connectivity is a fundamental human right — one that unlocks opportunity, drives innovation and empowers communities worldwide. He holds a master's degree from New Hampshire College (now Southern New Hampshire University), along with a Cybersecurity and Policy Certificate from the Harvard Kennedy School and additional certification from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Doctoral Degrees

Doctor of Business Administration — Organization Development

CORY JAMES BARNHART

Like to Talk to a Supervisor:
The Relationship Between
Perceived Supervisor Support
and Turnover Intention in
Remote Call Centers in the
United States

*B.A., University of Georgia;
MBA, Queens University of
Charlotte*

*Major Advisor: Donald G.
Schoffstall, Ph.D.*

KAI DAVON CHRISTIAN

Mentorship as Identity Work:
The Meaning Black Queer
Men Ascribe to Mentorship
in Identity Development
and Professional Identity
Formation

*B.S., Southern New Hampshire
University; M.S., Saint
Joseph's University*

*Major Advisor: David C.
Hood, Ph.D.*

CHARLENE DECESARE

Impostor Phenomenon and
its Implications for B2B Sales
Professionals

*B.S., Emerson College; MBA,
Rivier University*

*Major Advisor: Donald G.
Schoffstall, Ph.D.*

BRIAN JOHN DUGA

The Effects of Leadership
Training on Employee
Turnover in the Federal
Government

*B.S., University of Central
Missouri; M.S., New Mexico
State University*

*Major Advisor: Letta Taylor
Campbell, DM*

ELAINE GRULLON

Redefining Female Leadership
in the Fashion and Apparel
Industry: Equity and Equality

*AAS, Valencia Community
College; B.S., City University
of New York; MFA, Academy
of Art University*

*Major Advisor: Donald G.
Schoffstall, Ph.D.*

BRANDON LAMAR JOHNSON

Navigating Brand Activism:
The Role of Diversity, Equity
and Inclusion (DEI) in Shaping
Marketing Strategies

*BSBA, MBA Auburn University
at Montgomery*

*Major Advisor: Julie A.
Bilodeau, DBA*

NEDRA RICHARDS JONES

An Examination of the
Correlation Between
Unrestricted Funding and
Nonprofit Effectiveness

*B.S., North Carolina
Agricultural and Technical
State University; MSL,
University of Southern
California*

*Major Advisor: Letta Taylor
Campbell, DM*

LAURENCE (SANDY)**JOSEPH LEMBREE**

Decreasing Organizational
Knowledge Loss with
Collaborative Learning Teams

*B.S., MBA, Rensselaer
Polytechnic Institute*

*Major Advisor: Donald G.
Schoffstall, Ph.D.*

SEAN MICHAEL REILLY

The Negative Impact of
Meeting Frequency and
Duration on Morale
in Service Organizations

*BSBA, Bryant College; MBA,
University of Phoenix*

*Major Advisor: Julie A.
Bilodeau, DBA*

GINA MARIE SASSO

Redefining Mentorship:
Examining the Impact of
Parasocial Relationships on
Gen Z's Career Development

*B.S., Central Connecticut
State University; MBA,
Southern New Hampshire
University*

*Major Advisor: Donald G.
Schoffstall, Ph.D.*

RUBY D. SCREEN

Exploring and Identifying the
Challenges and Successes of
Reintegration Experiences of
BIPOC Female Veterans

*B.A., Allen University; MBA,
M.A., Webster University*

*Major Advisor: Donald G.
Schoffstall, Ph.D.*

LAURE-ANN E. SWABY

Leadership Styles and
Their Impact on Employee
Engagement, Commitment
and Satisfaction in Non-Profit
and For-Profit Organizations

*B.A., The Pennsylvania State
University; MBA, Lehman
College, City University of
New York*

*Major Advisor:
Scott Smith, Ph.D.*

KEVIN TAHERI

Organizational Culture as a
Moderator of the Relationship
Between Agile Adoption and
Project Success in the United
States

*B.S., Islamic Azad University;
MBA, Johnson & Wales
University*

*Major Advisor:
Rex N. Warren, Ph.D.*

Doctor of Education — Educational Leadership

KATE ASHWORTH

Adult Learners in the
Enrollment Pipeline

*B.A., MPA, Bridgewater
State University*

*Major Advisor: Suzanne M.
Buglione, Ed.D.*

**PATRICIA ELAINE
BOURGEAULT**

Master Scheduling: What and
How School Leaders Prioritize

*B.S., Bucknell University;
M.Ed., Fitchburg State
University*

*Major Advisor: Stacey L.
Kite, DBA*

**COURTNEY ROSE CLARKE-
TRACEY**

Mentorship in the Leadership
Journeys of Black Women in
K-12

*B.A., Lincoln University
(Pennsylvania); MBA,
American College of Dublin*

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

BIANCHA MARIE DIPAOLA

Understanding Educators'
Perspectives on Universal
Design for Learning in Co-
Taught Elementary and Middle
School Classrooms

*B.A., MAT, Rhode Island
College*

*Major Advisor: Victor D.
Mercurio, Ed.D.*

JOSEPH DAVID FAHRNEY

The Role of Mentorship:
The Lived Experience of Black
Women in Higher Education
Leadership

*B.S., Valdosta State
University; M.S., Roger
Williams University*

*Major Advisor: Suzanne M.
Buglione, Ed.D.*

LISA HOOPIS

Defying the Odds: The
Journey from Foster Care to
Earning a Doctorate

*B.A., M.A., Rhode Island
College*

*Major Advisor: Suzanne M.
Buglione, Ed.D.*

KATHERINE GENGA KAY

Educational Practitioners'
Perspectives on a Science
of Reading Course and Its
Adaptations for Deaf and Hard
of Hearing Students

*B.A., College of the Holy
Cross; M.Ed., Boston
University; Ed.S., Simmons
University*

*Major Advisor: Stacey L.
Kite, DBA*

ABDOURAHMANE LO

Exploring Middle and High
School Teachers' Experiences
in Integrating Technology for
Content-Specific Instruction:
A Qualitative Study

*B.A., Cheikh Anta Diop
University; M.S., Southern
New Hampshire University*

*Major Advisor: Victor D.
Mercurio, Ed.D.*

MAURA KEVEN METHENY

Mastery by Mistakes:
Reframing Failure in Higher
Education Skill-Based
Teaching and Assessment

*BFA, Alfred University; M.Ed.,
Johnson & Wales University*

*Major Advisor: Suzanne M.
Buglione, Ed.D.*

DEBORAH PACHECO

Individualized Education
Programming for Students
with Special Education Needs:
Paraprofessional Perceptions
of Roles and Responsibilities

*B.S., University of Rhode
Island; M.Ed., University of
Massachusetts Boston*

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

**KATELYNN ELIZABETH
TEWKSBURY**

Cross-Cultural Historic
Analysis of the Interpretation
and Implementation
of Project-Based Learning in
the U.S. and Singapore

*B.A., University of Southern
Maine; M.S., Columbia School
of Social Work*

*Major Advisor: Stacey L.
Kite, DBA*

**DONAVAN LESLIE
TRACEY JR.**

Black Teacher Retention
Strategies in K-12 Charter
Schools: Why They Remain
in the Field as Compared to
Their White Peers

*B.S., University of Hartford;
MSEd, Southern Connecticut
State University*

*Major Advisor: Suzanne M.
Buglione, Ed.D.*

Occupational Therapy Doctorate

MEAGHAN TERESA BURNS

The Impact of Community-
Based Educational Workshops
on the Sexual Health Literacy
and Satisfaction of LGBTQ+
Adults

B.A., Assumption University

*Major Advisor:
Kathryn Burke, OTD*

KYLA PAIGE CAMPBELL

Teacher Perceptions of the
Impact of Sensory Integration
and Processing on Student
Occupational Engagement

*B.S., University of Rhode
Island*

*Major Advisor:
Colleen Whiting, OTD*

ACADIA CASS

The Impact of Mental Skills
Training on Sport Performance
in Adolescent Gymnasts

*B.S., University of
Massachusetts Dartmouth*

*Major Advisor:
Shannon Strate, OTD*

**JORDAN ELIZABETH
CHIZMADIA**

Choosing Your Line:
Implementation of
an Adaptive Skiing
Communication Program for
Individuals with Complex
Communication Needs

B.S., Elon University

*Major Advisor:
Monique Dawes, OTD*

ZACHERY CAL EDWARDS

Understanding Occupational Therapy Referral Patterns and Knowledge Gaps Among United States Medical Providers

B.S., Johnson & Wales University

*Major Advisor:
Shannon Strate, OTD*

ELEANOR JANE GEMMA

Investigating the Sensory Needs of Bereaved Children in a Therapeutic Group Setting

B.S., University of Rhode Island

*Major Advisor:
Bethany Horne, OTD*

EMILY ISABEL HAMED

A Multifaceted Approach to Managing Agitation in Assisted Living Residents Diagnosed with Dementia

BAS, Bowling Green State University

*Major Advisor:
Sheridan Ferland, OTD*

MATILE ROSE KAPLAN

The Efficacy of an Educational Program on the Benefits of Aquatic Therapy: An Occupational Therapy Perspective

B.S., University of Rhode Island

*Major Advisor:
Kathryn Burke, OTD*

JENNIFER GRACE MACNIE

Effectiveness of Occupation-Based Mindfulness Strategies for Older Adults Experiencing Anxiety or Depression

B.S., University of Rhode Island

*Major Advisor:
Kathryn Burke, OTD*

CAITLYN RAE MENARD

Developing Best Practices for Peer Mentor Training After Spinal Cord Injury at EmpowerSCI

B.S., Johnson & Wales University

*Major Advisor:
Monique Dawes, OTD*

OLIVIA REESE MILLER

Advancing Neurodiverse-Affirming Care: Educating Caregivers to Improve Knowledge and Confidence

B.S., Johnson & Wales University

*Major Advisor:
Bethany Horne, OTD*

JAYDE ELAN MONTEIRO

Educating Birthing Professionals About the Benefits of Occupational and Physical Therapy in the Acute Postpartum Period

B.S., University of Rhode Island

*Major Advisor:
Kathryn Burke, OTD*

SERENA MORA

Advancing Social-Emotional
Wellness in Adolescents
Through Structured Physical
Fitness Programming

B.A., Emmanuel College

Major Advisor:

Tania Rosa, OTD

VENISA LYNN RODRIGUEZ

Utilization and Impacts
of Pediatric Caregiver
Interventions on Therapeutic
Engagement

B.S., California State

University – Monterey Bay

Major Advisor:

Tania Rosa, OTD

ANTHONY LOUIS VALENTINO

Developing Engagement
Programming to Increase
Leisure Participation
Among Individuals Living with
Cognitive Impairments

*B.S., University of Rhode
Island*

Major Advisor:

Bethany Horne, OTD

Master's Degrees

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

Faith N. Allen	Emily Eden McCracken
Molly Kathryn Anthony	Victoria McGrath
Anna Sage Beebe	Livia Moses
Cassidy Marie Begley	Eliza Nichols
Bethany Faith Bussey	Molly Sarah O'Connell
Mia P. Capparelli	Meghan Marie O'Connor
Sabrina Helen Charron	Gabriela Marie Ohl
Kimberly G. Chavanne	Kirsten Joelle Rewerts
Alyssa Marie Choquette	Jessica Mae Ruggiero
Madeline Courtney	Jessica Anna Santaniello
Erin Kathleen Faber	Katelyn Santostefano
Joshua Freeman Gerry	Gabriella Teresa Scarcella
Madeleine Gramajo Aponte	Klaudia Maria Szmackinski
Anna Marly Johnson Taylor	Haley Marie Taglienti
Nicholas Ryan Lamberton	Lindsay Ruth Wright
Jie Lin	Hannah Ahn Yi
Melanie Mack	Vanesa Ivanova Zhelyazkova

Master of Arts in Teaching — Teacher Education

CULINARY ARTS EDUCATION

Julia Rose Alfonzetti	Rhylee Rose Oden
Elizabeth Grace Broder	Cristy Yohany Severino-Fabian
Nimra Farooqui	Caera Stewart Stone
Marissa Lynn Lombardi	Amara Jeanne Weier

Master of Education — Teaching & Learning

Joshua Livsey Adams

Jennifer Geary Aubin

Yomely A. Marte

Giovannina Jennie Minardi

Master of Business Administration

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Emily Samantha Alcantara

Geraldine Almonte

Jack Robert Bernier

Matthew Arsen Bohannon

Terryce Illani Boseman

Sharelle Nicole Bridges

Breanne Nicole Callahan

Abigail Rain Cambranes

Jodi Lynn Canapp

Declan Reilly Caster

Carrie Ann Charello

Brendan Thomas Cotter

Matthew J. Crescimano

Kendra Allison DeFrias

Abhishek Dhunna

Dermot Joseph FitzPatrick

Carissa Nikole Fortes

Lily M. Fortin

Ariel Goncalves Tavares

Desiree Guerrero

Francina Kate Guiteau

Kelsi J. Ham

Aurora Zoe Hammond

Chelsea Nicole Hobbs

Emily Anne Hopkins

Nicole Marie Joseph

Ebony Ruth Keitt

Raquel Emerald Kennedy

Mollie Sue Kenney

Kerri Branco Lonardo

Darius S. MacKey

Wesley A. Madden

Shaniya Mardre

Angela Michelle Miller

Brian Joseph Miller

Stephanie Jeanette Moore

Dominique K. Morales

Samuel Jun Myung

Paul Nhar

Sorangel Peguero

Nash Pressler

Rachel Regis-Innocent

Shannon G. Reyes

Danielle Rezendes

Kendall Monique Ridenhour

Tony Roberson

Kasey Lynne Ross

Keshia Ross

Marjohn Shaker

Wadian Samoye Smith

Socheata Soy

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Connie Truong

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Valöna ZaNya Whitehead

Ryan Patrick Winn

Nathan Woody

Nicholas Edward Zarriello

ACCOUNTING

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Areil S. Castillo

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Sydney Christina McHale

Ericka Nicole Parra

Ajay Pravin Patel
Colyer Samper
Kali Elizabeth Subrizi
Christopher Alfred Testa
Madelyn Margaret Whitehouse

**GLOBAL FASHION
MERCHANDISING &
MANAGEMENT**

Kyu Alegre

HOSPITALITY

Kamran Ahmad
Mohammed Ali Al Dawood
Ahmad Sadiq Almasaeed
Meshal Fahad M. Alresheedi
Ashwaq Faleh Q. Alruwaili
Andy Fabian Alvarez
Brooklin Elaine Appel
Cindy C. Azar
Ilayda K. Behrman
Alexander Jamar Beverly
Roshni Bhagat
Raven Ashley Bryson
Samantha Buffington
Salome Jakay Cooper
Dorian Lamar Davis
Cynthia Drummond
Nahsjah Beverly Ky'lisha
Griffin
Manoj Kumar Karki
Ravi-Kumar Emil Knutson
Elena Maria Lundy

Wyatt Thomas Maguire
Linda Frances Marx
Ryan Sara McGowan
Celina Margaret Pancrazio
Canisha LaShae Pope
Sterling P. Riddick
Rafal Rojek
Amanda M. Sahadi
Amber Snyder
Michael Edward Swift
Kimberly Melissa Torres
Zechiah Monae Weekley
Kadie-Ann Whyte
Seonwoo Yoo

**HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT**

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Brittany Ann Lattimore
Maiya Sade McClain
Jennifer M. Mortensen
Joshua Joel Mosley
Noah Isaac Orlando
Jada Toni Kailyna Outerbridge
Anthony Secreto
Gregory Walker
Aubrie Rose Williams

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Sara Elizabeth Gates
Laura Catalina Guerrero Sabogal
Gwendolynn Ann Jones
Maya Lin De-li Lal
Alexis Kate McAllister
Leandre Carey Mewborn
Saqqara Amaya Ivette Ruiz
Sarabeth Santulli

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

Emma L. Sprecher
Adam Raymond Williamson

OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Ngbesso Vanessa Beke
Yunus Ben Lawal
Daniella Blanco
Jacques L. Coleman-Duhaney
Kenson Kayle Hamilton
Hipolito Martinez
Lakaiia Plummer
Rebeca Esther Romero
Fily Rosales
Nazilla Nickie Sciotti

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Yaneli Arias Almonte
Matthew James Caputo

Jarod Anthony Clemente
Jasmine Danielle Sainvil Crayton
Djelisa Duarte Daveiga
Sharon Marie Dicey
Courtney Leigha Donovan
Kirby Andrew Dorius
Caitlin Raquel Featherman
Cloraidy Patricia Fernandez Tineo
Ashley Elizabeth Foe
Angelina Jorge Recinos
Tori Shavon Logan
Nicholas Lorenzana
Audra Vaccari Lucas
Gillian L. McFadden
Oliver Menyongar
Courtney Orr
Kimberly Denisie Gomes Pires
Moana Reid
Nicole Romero
Nico Ann Sanfilippo
Sara Natania Sisya
Macy Elizabeth Wakefield
Nayira Inez Warren
Hannah Lane Wieser
Brandon L. Williams Sr.
Melissa Zareck

ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Javyre Jer'ea Brady
Alexandre Dacosta

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Erin Andra Durham
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Joi Brien Fisher
Megan Cierra Holmes
Renee Jefferson
Mackenzie Ann Kline
Jinelle V. McFarlane
Demaris Vionette Morales-
Flores
Linda A. Queen
Sean M. Sapirman
Amanda Catherine Scabora
Samantha Lauren Siena
Brianna Nan'chea Smart
Sinde Chelsea Osayeye Tantua
Dave Taylor

PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Marissa Jean Bouchard
Joseph Michael Caporelli
Tricia A. Carney
Nisha Khan

SPORT LEADERSHIP
Jana Leigh Bridgman
Gregory Michael Conroy
Ryan Francis Cormier
Dylan Paul Dmitry Hooter
Katherin Ann Marcotte
Ashley Trave Riddick
Taylor Ann Smith

Master of Public Administration

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Jarrchell India Benton
Christopher James Jarvis
Keith Bernard Kelly
Kavin E. Maynard
Nelson A. Moreira
Randeane Renea Morgan
Maria Alice Msumba

Harlena Ladena Munnings
Brandon Normann
Maysieo Tanks
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Alexander Graham Campbell
NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT
Charmagne Lenore Pearson

Master of Public Health

Janet Adeyeye

Zachary Hunter Cardelli

Jake Andrew Dauphin

Uchechukwu Joy Njoku

Kyana Eduarda Tavares

Master of Science

ADDICTION COUNSELING

Kurt Lawrence Feinberg

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Francesca Ariana Almonte

Zaura Marie Amaral

Sarah Marie Amore

Victoria Concetta Angell

Brenda Alejandra Arias

Dikshita Raj Batraj

Dahlia Elmenshawy Bennett

Katelyn Boudreau

Christina Marie Capobianco

Ricardo N. Costa

Genevieve E. Delgado

Courtney Difonzo

Ashley Lauren Dumas

Eleanor Eager

Maria F. Fana Mejia

Christine Ann Gamelin

Raisa Garcia Diaz

Gianna Nicole Guerrero

Elizabeth Ann Hnath

Evening Grace Iwanowicz

Makayla Shania Justa

Alicia Frimalee Livingston

Jarren Anthony Mabray

Vidad Malik

Stephanie Lauren McColgan

Ryan Patrick McNiece

Alexia Anne Parrillo

Shawn Joseph Pitts

Hunter Hage Poole

Sydney Rose Resendes

Allison Marie Rodrigues

Rosilee Rosales

Cassandra Elizabeth Silva

Kiara Azariah Starks

Roy Jerome Tillotson Jr.

Kelsey Vadenais

Robert Verducci

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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/FIELD OF STUDY	COLOR
Master of Business Administration	Drab
Master of Science	Gold
Doctor of Occupational Therapy	Rhodes Blue
Master/Doctor of Education	Light Blue
Master of Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Master of Public Health	Salmon
Master of Science in PA Studies	Sage 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.

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.

After the ceremony, guests may join the graduates outside under the marquee of the Amica Mutual Pavilion. 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](#).

