# Table of Contents

- **GREETINGS**
  From President Maloney .................................. 1

- **STUDENT SPEAKER**
  Poliana Alarcón Bustos .................................. 2

- **GRADUATE SCHOOL** .................................... 3

- **ACADEMIC TRADITIONS** ................................. 4

- **ACADEMIC ATTIRE** ..................................... 5

- **ORDER OF COMMENCEMENT** ........................... 6

- **HONORS & AWARDS**
  Graduate Medallion Recipients ........................... 7

- **GRADUATE DEGREES** .................................. 8-10

- **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**
  Graduate Marshals ......................................... 11
  Members of the Board of Trustees,
  Worcester State University .............................. 11
  Members of the Board of Higher Education
  Commonwealth of Massachusetts ....................... 11
  Academic Ceremonies Committee ....................... 11

- **HISTORY** .................................................. 12

- **ALMA MATER** ............................................ Inside Back Cover
GREETINGS / FROM PRESIDENT MALONEY

On behalf of the trustees, faculty, and staff of Worcester State University, I would like to congratulate you on your outstanding accomplishment. You are here today as a result of hard work and commitment to your studies, but also, for many of you, because of the support of your family, friends, and our dedicated educators. We are confident that you will use your remarkable talents wherever your path may take you.

We are also proud to recognize you as alumni of Worcester State University, a distinction that dates back to 1874 with our first incarnation as the Worcester Normal School for teachers. Though we have made significant and historical changes to our institution since the late 1800s, we anticipate that you, like the first graduating class, will maintain our time-honored traditions of rigorous academics and giving back to your community and the world.

As president of Worcester State University, I am honored to celebrate this milestone with you, and I sincerely hope that you will stay connected with us. We look forward to becoming a partner in your continuing professional and personal development, and we will always be here if you need us.

With warmest best wishes for your future,

Barry M. Maloney
President
Since her childhood, her parents gave Poliana a deeply rooted love for learning and discovering new things. Growing up in Chile, her relationship with nature gave her a passion for new challenges and adventures. Having three siblings also played an essential role in her understanding of community. Poliana became particularly captivated with social issues at a young age and between her passion for teamwork and the arts, she decided to pursue a career as an actor.

The Theater and the Performing Arts Campus of Universidad Mayor became an engaging environment for Poliana. Theatrical technique acquisition was a learning process with a clear direction: taking observed social events and behaviors, using the body as a tool, and then representing those concerns in front of an active audience. Poliana graduated from Universidad Mayor, in Santiago de Chile in 2010, with a bachelors of arts degree in performing arts.

After this initial college experience, she decided to expand her horizons. She applied to teach in a public nonprofit foundation in order to intervene directly with low-income neighborhoods. Teaching theater, visual and fine arts became an exciting and constructive experience. She took an active role, engaging students in the academic and artistic fields and, as the coordinator of the art department, was tasked with defining pedagogical guidelines for the programs.

In 2015, wanting to broaden her perspective on the world, Poliana challenged herself by deciding to learn English. Attending the Intensive English Language Institute at Worcester State University opened the door to the next stage of her life. Being involved with a new community taught her to appreciate the variety of ways humans express themselves.

This new experience encouraged her to enroll in the master of arts program in Spanish at Worcester State. She could finally study, in depth, the relationship between politics and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. The University, especially the World Languages Department, became a home for her with willing professors interested in supporting her academic process. Poliana was awarded a graduate assistantship within the department and worked in the Translation Center. As a graduate student, she also became interested in how the most significant economies control Latin American societies and how this structure drives poverty in the region.

Currently, Poliana is working at the Latino Education Institute (LEI), at Worcester State University, in the LASOS Program (Latina Achievers in Search Of Success). This program seeks to impact the life of sixth-grade Latina students from Worcester Public Schools, as well as their mothers and other significant women in their lives.

This fall, Poliana will begin a new adventure as she joins the Ph.D. program in Hispanic Language & Literatures at Boston University. She is excited about this next step in her journey to become an active citizen from the Southern Hemisphere exploring issues through different artistic expressions. She hopes to go back to South America to nourish the local culture and youth through her teaching and activism.
Graduate School

Barry M. Maloney, President  
Dr. Lois A. Wims, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Roberta L. Kyle, Associate Vice President for Continuing Education and Dean of Graduate Studies  
Sara J. Grady, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies & Professional Development

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND NATURAL SCIENCES
Dr. Linda Larrivee, Dean  
Dr. Raynold Lewis, Associate Dean of Education

Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Dr. Susanna Meyer, Chair  
Program Coordinator  
M.S. Speech-Language Pathology, Dr. Kenneth Melnick

Dept. of Biology
Dr. Steven Oliver, Chair  
Program Coordinator  
M.S. Biotechnology, Dr. Ellen Fynan

Dept. of Education
Dr. Sue Fan Foo, Chair  
Program Coordinators  
M.Ed. Early Childhood Education, Dr. Carol Donnelly  
M.Ed. Education, Dr. Sara Young  
M.Ed. Elementary Education, Dr. Christina Kaniu  
M.Ed. English as a Second Language, Dr. Margarita Perez  
M.Ed. Middle School, Dr. Sara Young  
M.Ed. Moderate Disabilities, Dr. Sue Fan Foo  
M.Ed. Leadership and Administration, Dr. Stephan Mills  
M.Ed./CAGS/Ed.S. Reading, Dr. Kelly Reinhardt  
M.Ed./CAGS/Ed.S. School Psychology, Dr. Diane Cooke  
M.Ed./CAGS/Ed.S. Secondary Education, Dr. Sara Young  
CAGS/Ed.S. Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Sara Young

Dept. of Health Sciences
Dr. Syamak Moattari, Chair  
Program Coordinator  
M.Ed. Health Education, Dr. Andrew Piazza

Dept. of Occupational Therapy
Dr. Patricia Donovan, Chair  
Program Coordinator  
MOT Occupational Therapy, Dr. Cheryl Lucas

Dept. of Nursing
Dr. Susan Alix, Chair  
Program Coordinators  
M.S.N. Community Public Health, Dr. Stephanie Chalupka  
M.S.N. Nurse Educator, Dr. Melissa Duprey

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Dr. Russ Pottle, Dean

Dept. of English
Dr. Dennis Quinn, Chair  
Program Coordinator  
M.A. English, Dr. Dennis Quinn

Dept. of History and Political Science
Dr. Tona Hangen, Chair  
Program Coordinator  
M.A. History, Dr. Erika Briesacher

Dept. of Urban Studies
Dr. Thomas Conroy, Chair  
Program Coordinator  
M.S. Nonprofit Management, Dr. Shiko Gathuo

Dept. of Business Administration and Economics
Professor Mark Love, Chair  
Program Coordinators  
M.S. Health Care Administration, Dr. Robert Holmes  
M.S. Management, Dr. Elizabeth Wark

Dept. of World Languages
Dr. Ana Perez-Manrique, Chair  
Program Coordinator  
M.A. Spanish, Dr. Antonio Guijarro-Donadios  
Ed.S. Education Specialist  
M.A. Master of Arts  
M.Ed. Master of Education  
MOT Master of Occupational Therapy  
M.S. Master of Science  
M.S.N. Master of Science Nursing
ACADEMIC TRADITIONS

The academic procession begins with a trumpet fanfare. The Bearer of the Mace, our Faculty Marshal, leads the procession, beginning with students, then faculty and staff. Next, the Master of Ceremonies follows ahead of the President, the Commencement speaker, vice presidents, deans, and other University officials. The Mace is presented at the center of the stage, while those processing enter and take their places. Once the Mace is placed on the stand, the ceremony begins.

The Mace is used at all academic ceremonies. In medieval times, Maces were weapons of warfare, but today the Mace represents the President’s authority as the chief academic and administrative officer and is present at all academic ceremonies of the University.

The official seal is present on the center stage podium and on the face of the Mace. It is representative of the following:

- The Palladian window links the past and the future. A distinguishing feature of the Helen G. Shaughnessy Administration Building, the oldest building on campus, the window symbolizes the educational ideals on which the University was founded.
- The globe represents the wide world beyond the campus, as well as the global impact of a Worcester State education.
- The rays of sunlight shining over the world reflect knowledge, enlightenment, hope, and the promise of new horizons.

The Presidential Medallion, worn by the President, was designed by Mr. Dominic DiPasquale and symbolizes the union between the President and the University. This hand-tooled medallion of the original seal is passed on to succeeding presidents.
ACADEMIC ATTIRE

Ceremonial garments worn at academic functions take their meaning from the Church of the Middle Ages, the original center of Western learning. Distinctive markings on the gown and hood indicate the level and subject area of the degree earned as well as the institution granting the degree.

The hood offers the most information about its owner. The inner lining identifies the institution at which the degree was earned; the velvet trim indicates the major field of study. A final feature concerns the length and width of the hood. The length of the hood for the bachelor’s degree is three feet and the velvet border is two inches; the master’s is three and one-half feet in length with a three-inch-wide border; the certificate of advanced graduate study shield is three feet with a graduated border from three inches wide to six and one-half inches wide; and the doctoral level hood is four feet in length with a five-inch border.

The gown’s cut signifies the level of degree attained, ranging from the relative simplicity of the bachelor’s gown to the velvet panels and bell-shaped sleeves of the doctorate gown.

The cap or mortarboard has been adopted by institutions throughout the United States. It is black with black tassels for holders of bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Gold tassels are reserved for those with doctorate degrees and for governing officers of educational institutions.

At this ceremony, the colors of many universities and colleges may be seen. The designated colors for academic disciplines are as follows:

Agriculture ........................................ Maize
Arts, Letters, Humanities .................. White
Business, Commerce, Accountancy .... Drab
Criminal Justice ................... Midnight Blue
Economics ................................. Copper
Education ................................. Light Blue
Engineering ............................... Orange
Fine Arts, Architecture ............... Brown
Forestry ........................................ Russet
Journalism .............................. Crimson
Law .............................................. Purple
Library Science .......................... Lemon
Medicine ................................ Green
Music ........................................... Pink
Nursing ......................................... Apricot
Philosophy .............................. Dark Blue
Physical Education .................... Sage Green
Public Administration ............... Peacock
Public Health .......................... Salmon Pink
Science ............................... Golden Yellow
Social Science ........................ Cream
Social Work .............................. Citron
Veterinary Science .................... Gray
Order of Commencement

PROCessional
Bagpiper: Mr. Gary Williams
Faculty Marshal: Mr. Donald F. Bullens, Associate Professor, Communication Department

MASTER of CEREMONIES
Dr. Roberta L. Kyle, Associate Vice President for Continuing Education and Dean of Graduate Studies

GREETINGs
President Barry M. Maloney
Mr. Craig L. Blais, Chair, Board of Trustees
Dr. Lois A. Wims, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Donald F. Bullens ’69, ’75, President, Worcester Chapter, MSCA
Mr. Michael J. Mills ’72, President, Alumni Association’s Advisory Board

STUDENT SPEAKER
Ms. Poliana Alarcón Bustos, Master of Arts in Spanish

CONFERRING of DEGREES
Mr. Craig L. Blais, Chair, Board of Trustees

PRESENTATION of DEGREES AND HOODS
President Barry M. Maloney
School Deans
Graduate Program Coordinators

RECESSIONAL
HONORS & AWARDS

Graduate Medallion Recipients

Biotechnology
Brittany J. Perley

Community and Public Health Nursing
Julie Anne Gallant

Early Childhood Education
Kristen Allen
Brandi Elizabeth Dewar

Education
Brad Francis Truman
Brothers

Elementary Education
Megan S. Knight

English
Anthony Marando

English as a Second Language
Sonela Demirazi

Health Care Administration
Kristine Melanie Stapelfeld*

History
Ahenebah Nez Lane
Katherine McGown

Leadership and Administration
Nicole R. McMahon*
Kristin Robertson
Nathaniel Francis Uttaro*
Laura J. White

Management
Matthew Tomas Larson*

Middle School Education
Sarah Elizabeth Salsman

Moderate Disabilities
Jennifer B. Frederick
Elizabeth Reilly

Nonprofit Management
Kyler Jesanis

Nurse Educator
Jenna L. Canale
Jennifer Stanley

Occupational Therapy
Kristi Ann Sarro

Reading
Holly Arel
Sarah Elizabeth Falvey*
Megan D. Fitzgerald
Shannon Rice*
Marissa Lyn Tenore

Secondary Education
Joshua J. Bir
Daniel R. Brown
Rachael Erickson*
Benjamin Hitzfeld
Kaitlyn Marie Labbay
Hillary Roberge
Kerry Rose Keenan Stabelski

Spanish
Adriana Lugo Zayas*

Speech-Language Pathology
Christopher William McCormick**

Education Specialist in Curriculum and Instruction
Donna Williams

Education Specialist in Secondary Education
Caitlin F. Lahey

Education Specialist in School Psychology
Hunter Marie Hoobler
Jessica R. Richard

* August 2018 Graduate
** December 2018 Graduate
Graduate Degree Recipients & Candidates

Biotechnology
Tadas Buivydas**
Brittany J. Perley
Breille M. Shea*
Shayna Louise Sizelove*

Early Childhood Education
Kristen Allen
Lisa Ann Almonte
Mackensy Bailey
Alyssa M. Caplan
Rebecca L. Cloutier
Cheryl M. Creighton
Brandi Elizabeth Dewar
Heather Dziembowski
Christine Grudoff
Theresa Sovanny Loch
Emily Malone
Elizabeth C. McLoughlin*
Brittany O’Neil
Jessica Marie Piascik
Anna Maria Seymour
Brianna Nell Spelman

Education
Brad Francis Truman
Brothers

Elementary Education
Victoria Lauren Cataldo
Heather Nichelle Kellaher
Megan S. Knight
Leah Terrasi

English
James Foley**
Anthony Marando

English as a Second Language
Sonela Demirazi
Earl E. Duncan III
Araceli Esqueda*
Kristen Duran Richards**
Thomas Riordan*
Norma Isabel Senior

Health Care Administration
Allison McKeon Nixon
Kristine Melanie Stapelfeldt**

Health Education
Zoe Asibey
Brian White**

History
Caroline Fitzpatrick
Emily Lake
Ahenebah Nez Lane
Katherine McGown
Thomas J.P. Navin
Joanna Maria Piascik
Theodore Racicot
Samantha Ann Sandstrom
Brian J. Volk

Leadership and Administration
Sandra Daria Alicandro
Emily Claire Ambrose
Ignacio Argüello
Lisa M. Bowden**
Kevin Brennan**
Amanda Lee Cence**
Amy Chcharone**
Christina Chionchio**
George T. Combellack**
Nicole Maria DeMember
Elizabeth R. Gore**
Michelle L. Duclos**
Anne Marie Faiola**
Melissa Farrell
Allison Garand**
Lisa Goulet**
Michael C. Groccia**
Elisabeth F. Hall**
Crystal Anne Hare**
Courtney Leigh Hastings**
Judith M. Haughey
Matthew Heenan**
Lauren Hill**
Todd Kittelson**
Robert D. Knittle**
Brian E. Kramer
Meaghan Anne Leone
Jason Lessard

Kristen DeCesare
MacDonald**
Kathleen H. Maloney
Cameron A. Martin**
Jessica L. McDermott**
Nicole R. McMahon**
John O’Leary
Sherilyne Katrina Parretti**
Elizabeth K. Pinzino**
Rebecca M. Pittorino
Patricia C. Riley**
Kristin Robertson
Felecia J. Rutigliano**
Elizabeth Scivani**
Mary Elizabeth Lampron
Shepherd**
Lisa Slepoda
Julie D. Taka**
Patricia D. Tuccillo
Nathaniel Francis Uttaro**
Megan Weeks*
Laura J. White

Management
James Boachie
Dennis Paul Brunnett**
Eliamonda Cacollari**
Grace Carvajal
Laura Caswell
Abby Donoghue**
Julia D. Dufault**
William A. Giron
Lindsay Marie Hunter**
Frederick K. Kobea
Anjeza Konda**
Corey James Laite
Matthew Tomas Larson*
Shawn Logan**
Nicole T. Messier**
Pawel Mikuci
Tiana Raye Moreau
Khath Nguyen
Julicia Robles
Grant Houghton Royek
Tyler Joseph Royek
Nicole St. Germain
Mariola Szablowska
Juan Sebastian Ramos
Torres
**Middle School Education**
Vanessa Berrios
Joseph J. Buck-Grossi**
Brian Kubicek
Sarah Rafferty**
Christina M Rocheleau**
Sarah Elizabeth Salsman
Laura Ann Settle

**Moderate Disabilities**
Deidre Elliott
Jennifer B. Frederick
Brent D. Gothier
Kathleen Marie Kraas
Erin E. Messier
Jessica Morse
Kerry Marie Nugent
Gregory Przygoda**
Elizabeth Reilly
Natasha L. Thomasian**
Cheryl A. Watson

**Nonprofit Management**
Kyler Jesanis

**Nursing**
Jenna L. Canale
Lisa E Cappabianca
Cynthia Thumm Cisowski
Afuia Ayewah Danso
Donna Desy
Cynthia D. Duggan
Kristine Foley
Diane Forget
Julie Anne Gallant
Marycatherine Gauvin
Doris Bailey Kemp
Elizabeth Mancini
Gertrude N. Ng’ang’a
Heather L. O’Connell
Joshua O’Floinn
Fortune E. Okolo
Tina Marie Schwartz
Esther Cecelia Agatha Small
Jennifer Stanley
Kelly Ann Sudnick
Jodi L. Swenson
Simon Joel Torres
Anne Weaver

**Occupational Therapy**
Tess Catharine Arruda**
Kara Marie Baillargeon
Madison Euphemia Barron**
Jaclyn E. Bectote**
Samantha E. Clougherty**
Paulin Cule**
Maria Cecile D’Angelo**
Gayle Andrea Foley**
Jamie Rose Halloran
Beth Keltz
Brianna E. McCormack**
Christine McLean
Kelsey V. Miskis**
Alexandria Kate Moriarty**
Mary Edith O’Neil
Kaylyn Joyce O’Neil
Nicole Paul**
Meghan Elizabeth Powers**
Courtney N. Salisbury**
Kristi Ann Sarro
Beth Diane Spinazzola**
Katherine St. Onge
Leigha Ann Tacey
Molly A. Tibbetts**

**Reading**
Lauren E. Angers*
Holly Arel
Helen Collins
Cassie Duca
Sarah Elizabeth Falvey*
Megan D. Fitzgerald
Yolanda Gutierrez
Renée Legendre*
Stacy A. Malia*
Laura Martin
Cassandra B. McGann
Shannon Rice*
Cassandra Lynne Short**
Jacqueline Staruk
Marissa Lyn Tenore
Erin Young

**Secondary Education**
Joshua J. Bir
Daniel R. Brown
Rachael Erickson**
Benjamin Hitzfeld
Allyson L. Houlihan
Kaitlyn Marie Labbay
Courtney Marie Lavin
Natalie Layte
Emily Kirsten Looby
Zachary C. Marion
Kelly Monaghan
Scott Perceval
Nicholas G. Petkauskos
Devan Quinn
Hillary Roberge
Shaun Rooney**
Tiffany Y. Sabasowitz
Laura Ashleigh Sawyer
Philip E. Spellane**
Kerry Rose Keenan Stabelski
Lucas Steven White

**Spanish**
Poliana Javiera Alarcón Bustos**
Am Cecil Fuoti
Juan Carlos Hernández-Vega*
Emily Kulik*
Kerry Moynihan
Adriana Lugo Zayas*

**Speech Language Pathology**
Lynda Jaine Chamberlain**
Kaitlyn Crosby
Courtney Elizabeth Diniz**
Jillian Rachel Estrella**
Lisa Farese
Cassandra Elisabeth Goncalves**
Jocelyn Kathryn Hurst**
Sarah Keith
Matthew Kinslow
Brianna Lynne Kodis**
Stephanie Nicole Lombardi**
Amy Marie Lydon**

* August 2018 Graduate
** December 2018 Graduate
Graduate Degree Recipients & Candidates

Carson Liana Maddigan**
Christopher William McCormick**
Katherine N. L. Mullaney**
Jenna Alexis Perry**
Sarah Elizabeth Louise Petersen
Tony Piazza
Thalia K. Sosa**
Chelsea Powers Staples**
Angela Tonet**
Meagan Theresa Vasey**
Alyssa Nicole Wetmore**
Cristina Louise Zaffetti**

Education Specialist in School Psychology
Julia E. Anderson
Jessica Connolly
Erin E. Fontaine
Ashley A. Hardenstine
Rachel B. Hillegass
Hunter Marie Hoobler
Samantha M. Maesto
Rachel Mary Niddrie
Kaitlyn E. Patno
Tyler D. Pietras
Jessica R. Richard
Jillian M. Scaficchia

School Psychology
Julia E. Anderson**
Jessica Connolly**
Erin E. Fontaine**
Ashley A. Hardenstine**
Rachel B. Hillegass**
Hunter Marie Hoobler**
Samantha M. Maesto**
Rachel Mary Niddrie**
Kaitlyn E. Patno**
Tyler D. Pietras**
Jessica R. Richard**
Jillian M. Scaficchia**

Education Specialist in Curriculum and Instruction
Donna Williams

Education Specialist in Secondary Education
Caitlin F. Lahey
Manjola Luma
Scott Moriarty
Melissa Lewis Bernstein
Sullivan

Conferral of a degree occurs when the registrar finalizes the student’s academic record and validates that all requirements have been satisfied. Participation in the commencement ceremony and inclusion in this program do not constitute conferral of the degree. A diploma will be issued when all degree requirements have been satisfied and confirmed completed.

*August 2018 Graduate  **December 2018 Graduate
Special Recognition

Graduate Marshals
Theresa Sovanny Loch
Adriana Lugo Zayas*

Members of the Board of Trustees
Worcester State University
Craig L. Blais, Chair
Maryanne M. Hammond ’69, M.Ed. ’72, Vice Chair
Stephen F. Madaus, Vice Chair
Lisa M. Colombo ’87
Manasseh A. Konadu ’20
Aleta M. Fazzone
Karen M. LaFond
Dina A. Nichols
Shirley A. Steele ’59, M.Ed. ’63
Marina L. Taylor
David H. Tuttle ’01

Members of The Board of Higher Education
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Chris Gabrieli, Chairman
Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D., Vice Chair
Alex Cortez
Nancy Hoffman, Ph.D.
Tom Hopcroft
J.D. LaRock, J.D., Ed.D., Community College Trustee Representative
Paul Mattera, J.D., State University Trustee Representative
Michael O’Brien, University of Massachusetts Trustee Representative
Kush Patel, Student Member
James Peyser, Ex Officio
Fernando M. Reirmers, Ed.D.
Paul F. Toner, J.D.

Academic Ceremonies Committee
Noah Dion
Meaghan Dougherty ’19
Tara Hancock
Patrick Hare
Bridget Horton
Nicole Kapurch
Josh Katz
Robert Kyle
Mark LaCroix
Fran Manocchio
Sarah McMaster
Michael McKenna
Kristie McNamara
John Meany
Emily Soltano
Maureen Stokes
Sarah Strout
Louise Taylor
Henry Theriault
Michael Vigeant
Maribeth Wrobel

Cover Watercolor
Mark Waitkus

* August 2018 Graduate
** December 2018 Graduate
Worcester State University was founded as the Worcester Normal School in 1874, the fifth state-funded normal school in Massachusetts and one of dozens of teacher-training schools established during the 19th century.

In 1932, all the normal schools were renamed, and Worcester’s became Worcester State Teachers College. That same year, the College moved to its present location on Chandler Street. A large, colonial-style building was constructed on the site of Willow Farm, owned by Worcester inventor and philanthropist George I. Rockwood.

In 1942, Rockwood donated an additional 35 acres, paving the way for campus expansion. The College’s fifth president, Dr. Eugene A. Sullivan (1947-1970), oversaw a period of unprecedented growth, as enrollment grew from 150 students to nearly 2,800.

By 1963, the former teachers college had evolved into a liberal arts and sciences college, and thus the Board of Education renamed it Worcester State College. Under the leadership of Dr. Robert E. Leestamper (1970-1975), the College opened its first residence hall, Chandler Village, in 1973. Also during his tenure, a bachelor of science degrees in business administration and nursing were added. In 1974, the graduate school was established.

The growth period continued under the administration of President Joseph J. Orze (1975-1982). In 1979, the College added its second residence hall, Dowden Hall, named for Mrs. Vera M. (Dowden) Baldwin ’34, M.Ed. ’53, the school’s first Dean of Students. Under the leadership of President Philip D. Vairo (1982-1991), the College expanded its programs to include the area’s first master of science in speech-language pathology and the first bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy in the state college system.

During the presidency of Dr. Kalyan K. Ghosh (1992-2002), the College incorporated the widespread use of technology, from computer-based learning to a campus-wide network. In 2000, the College opened the 110,000-square-foot Kalyan K. Ghosh Center for Science and Technology, with instructional laboratories for 12 academic programs and a 196-seat multimedia lecture hall.

In 2002, the College welcomed its first female president, Dr. Janelle C. Ashley (2002-2011). Under her leadership, the student population grew as the campus undertook major renovations and building projects, including the construction of the award-winning residence hall named after philanthropist Phillip M. Wasylean II ’63, which opened in 2004.

In 2010, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted university status to all nine Massachusetts state colleges.

Barry M. Maloney became the 11th president of the University in July 2011. Under his leadership, Worcester State University has increased its full-time faculty, increased fundraising, and improved student measures of success. Student opportunities for civic engagement and service learning and for student-exchange and study away have grown substantially. A new 400-bed residence hall, named for Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan ’55, opened in the fall of 2014, and a new 101,000-square-foot Wellness Center, a state-of-the-art athletic and recreation facility, opened in 2016.
Worcester State, our noble college, we take pride in you,
As we gather gaining knowledge, we will e’er be true.
When we came to our dear campus, strangers all were we,
Forming bonds, we did with many, learning set us free.
Years do pass at Worcester State and as we travel on,
We’ll recall the joys we had, our hearts will ne’er be gone.

Chorus:
Worcester State, listen!
Raise each voice, as we now sing your praise!
Memories we all will cherish of our college days!
—Lyrics by Cynthia Talbert, ’57, ’76