Table of Contents

GREETINGS
From President Maloney ........................................ 1

STUDENT SPEAKER
Nicole “Nikki” Collins ........................................ 2

GRADUATE SCHOOL ........................................ 3

ACADEMIC TRADITIONS ..................................... 4

ACADEMIC ATTIRE .......................................... 5

ORDER OF COMMENCEMENT ................................ 6

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. This virtual commencement is not how we planned to celebrate with you today. However, the coronavirus pandemic has strengthened your resolve to persevere in the face of uncertainty. 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
Nikki Collins has had a passion for education from a very young age. However, inspired by a close friend in high school, she chose to pursue her bachelor of science in nursing. It was eight years into her career as a nurse that the two worlds finally collided.

Nikki grew up in central Massachusetts, frequenting Worcester State’s campus on drives through the city. The school was a special place, as her own mother earned a master of education degree there. Nikki herself attended Salve Regina University in Rhode Island and credits ocean views from the library’s third floor as her saving grace. While there, she was recognized for outstanding campus leadership. Upon graduating, she felt the inevitable shock of, “what now?” and anxiously accepted her first nursing job at Clinton Hospital, where she learned from the best. Desiring a change, though, Nikki decided to pursue her dream of working in the emergency room. She relocated to Brooklyn, New York and was accepted into a rigorous ER nursing fellowship. It was then that she felt the initial call to nursing education, inspired by clinically savvy and unequivocally brilliant clinical nurse educators; she thrived in this setting surrounded by eager learners from all disciplines.

Upon returning to Massachusetts, Nikki began working in the ER at Saint Vincent Hospital, where she continues to serve her community proudly and receive accolades for her leadership abilities. Her acceptance to the Master of Science in Nursing Education program at Worcester State began her journey toward an inevitably exciting and fulfilling career.

Nikki is infinitely grateful for the experiences afforded her by the Nurse Educator faculty and her classmates at Worcester State, both in pre- and post-pandemic times. She is honored to represent the Graduate Class of 2021, especially after such a globally transformative and humbling year. By doing what she loves, Nikki hopes to inspire future nurses to become lifelong learners for the betterment of humanity.
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. Kristina Curro

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

Dept. of Education
Dr. Christina Kaniu, Chair
Program Coordinator
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. Pamela Hollander
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 Occupational Therapy
Dr. Joanne Gallagher Worthley, Chair
Program Coordinator
MOT Occupational Therapy,
   Dr. Tanya Trudell

Dept. of Nursing
Dr. Paula Bylaska-Davies, Chair
Program Coordinator
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. Don Vescio, Chair
Program Coordinator
M.A. English, Dr. Don Vescio

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

Dept. of Urban Studies
Dr. Thomas Conroy, Chair
Program Coordinator
M.S. Nonprofit Management,
   Master of Public Management,
   Master of Public Administration & Policy,
   Dr. Shiko Gathuo

Dept. of Business Administration and Economics
Professor Mark Love, Chair
Program Coordinator
M.S. Health Care Administration,
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
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.

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

Welcome Remarks
Barry M. Maloney
President

Greetings
Stephen Madaus
Chair, Board of Trustees

Remarks
Lois A. Wims, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Commencement Address
Nicole “Nikki” Collins ’21

Donning of the Hood
Student Marshals
Lauren A. Banfield ’21
Connor Zanini ’21

Closing Remarks
Roberta Kyle, Ed.D.
Dean of Graduate Studies

Remarks
Elizabeth A. Bitar ’11
Alumni Association Advisory Board President

Well Wishes
Brought by faculty graduate program coordinators and deans

Introduction of Worcester State University Degree Recipients
GRADUATE MEDALLION RECIPIENTS

**Biotechnology**
Emily A. Mattson

**Community and Public Health Nursing**
Melissa Ledbetter

**Early Childhood Education**
Brianna Deacon
Natalie Mae Howe

**Education**
Nicholas G. Boudreau
Genevieve Labbe

**Elementary Education**
Ashley Barringer*
Emily A. Walker

**English**
Lily Elaina Proffer*
Kevin Paul Saleeba

**Health Care Administration**
Ronny Aluede
Tyler Nystedt

**History**
Alexandra Mabardy
Eric Wormell*

**Leadership and Administration**
Tara Marie Dexter

**Management**
Jenna Elizabeth Kovago**
Patrick D. Sweeney

**Middle School Education**
Lauren M. Pietro

**Moderate Disabilities**
Chelsea Frances Langelier

**Nonprofit Management**
Michael Edward Whitman

**Nurse Educator**
Clifford L. Shay
Stephanie Wild

**Occupational Therapy**
Colleen Marie Rinaldi

**Public Management**
Xheni Arapi

**Reading**
Christina Little*

**Secondary Education**
Laura Hazel
Kristin Hope*
Jessica Marie Lamagdeleine

**Spanish**
Zachary D’Orsi

**Speech Language Pathology**
Aria Alaina Maggiacomo

**Education Specialist in School Psychology**
Hallie Beyer Lord
Jessica McElhatten-Landis

* August 2020 Graduate
** December 2020 Graduate
Graduate Degree Recipients & Candidates

Biotechnology
Emily A. Mattson
Andita Palesa Newton
Kaitlin Eileen Young

Early Childhood Education
Mackensey Bailey*
Barbara Borowska
Brianna Deacon
Natalie Mae Howe
Sarah Stefany*

Education
Nicholas G. Boudreau
Jonathan Flayhan
Andreia dos Santos Lucas Gutierrez**
Genevieve Labbe
Danielle Nieves

Elementary Education
Jocelyn T. Aulo
Ashley Barringer*
Andrea J. Bray*
Shealagh Doherty
Danielle Marie Favata
Merrie Margaret Gardner
Mariah Gomes
Melissa Horohoe
Bobbi-Jean Lanier*
Erin Paige Macora
Erin Marie McConville
Brandon Meece
Mathew John Noll
Aaron Pearl
Amber Serrenho
Olivia Snow
Emily A. Walker
Edlira Xhaferri

Health Care Administration
Ronny Aluede**
Zahra Aryan
Swetha Rao Chikyala*
Deborah Ann Fahey
Tyler Nystedt**

History
Joseph Paul Cunningham
Mark Dilegge
Alexandra Mabardy
Eric Wormell*

Leadership and Administration
Maria Beaudette**
Leandra Carey**
Tara Marie Dexter**
Dawn M. Dwyer
Kathryn Fleming**
Daniel Gay**
Andrea Emma Hurley
Karen Kalinowski**
Jenny L. Lee**
Andrew S. Maxwell**
Rachel Savage**
Marta K. Scarpato**
David James Stanick, Jr.**
Melanie R. Sullivan
Fogerty**
Meghan Ashley Thomson**
Shannon G Vail**

Management
Lauren A. Banfield
George Basta
Jenna Beahn
Rebecca J. Chamberlain**
Kellie M. Conway**
Hannah Victoria Doherty**
Matthew Edwards
Jenna Elizabeth Kovago**
Joseph A. Mazza
Mitchel McGonagle
Ashley Peck
Rahul Pidikiti
Jonathan E. Pover**
Kinga Rodriguez
Patrick D. Sweeney
Eric Ward

Middle School Education
Elizabeth Ann Marc-Aurele*
Jillian Vee Brewer
Kaitlin Davies
Kelli Antoinette Keaney
Siobhan Lyons*
Renee McDonald**
Lauren M. Pietro
Ellen Reber
Ian Roberts

Moderate Disabilities
Deborah E Beck**
Charles Dexter Farrar*
Angela Greiner*
Chelsea Frances Langelier
Kristi Martin*

Nonprofit Management
Joshua L. Katz
Tina J. McAndrew
Brittany Wallace
Michael Edward Whitman
## Nursing
Sandra E. Bailey  
Mary M. Buttitta  
Nicole E. Collins  
Elizabeth Ann DeSignore  
Martha Diaz-Dufresne  
Ashleigh Elizabeth Dziedzic  
Shannon Marie Fras  
Dianna Gubber-Markley  
Ann Kach  
Lyndsey K. Kilduff  
Sara Rose Kramer  
Cynthia A. Lebel  
Melissa Ledbetter  
Marissa Eleni Lourake  
Diane L Moffat  
Paul Richard Murphy III  
Mary E. O'Neil  
Mildred Owino  
Denise M. Perry  
Tina M. Rusak  
Clifford L. Shay  
Ruth Wanjiku Thuo  
Kate Victoria Tulasi  
Stephanie Wild  
Mary E. Woodside  
Samia Young  
Emily Myriah Zwicker

## Occupational Therapy
Amanda Allen  
Carly Bell  
Alexandra Jo-Anne Bellerive  
Elizabeth Anne Cormier  
Kristen Claire Cuccoli  
Caleigh Davis  
Casey Demers  
Lauren M. DePasquale  
Ulara Erickson  
Jocelyn Gadbois  
Tracey Lee Gibbs  
Jordan Giebner  
Arista Piaulos Katsourakis  
Christopher Vincent Borg Lazzaro  
Tannice A. Lindsay  
Nicole E. Lundstrom  
Cora Gabrielle Marica  
Victoria Marshall  
Katelyn Marie McCarthy  
Hannah Musto  
Kelly Myro  
Heather Nadeau  
Rachel J Nallen  
Christine Ellis Orabona  
Kathryn Nicole Proulx  
Joanna M. Quinn  
Elisabeth Brianna Reed  
Colleen Marie Rinaldi  
Jasmin E. Serrano  
Kathleen Carroll Sheehan  
Kimberly Sinclair  
Katelyn Deanna  
Surprenat  
Courtney Swanson  
Kailee Tierney  
Julia Timysz

## Public Management
Xheni Arapi

## Reading
Christina Little  
Annalise McGral

## School Psychology
Molly Andress  
Julie Grace Boyd  
Karissa Ashleigh Collins  
Alexis Crawford  
Kathryn Florio  
Grace Anna Kim Levesque  
Alison L. Lisak  
Hallie Beyer Lord  
Stephanie Ann Martin  
Jessica McElhattan-Landis  
Rachel Miller  
Jordan Orcutt  
Carla Marie Yudin

## Secondary Education
Tony Aguilar Jr.  
Ivy Benoit  
Zachary Berman  
Patrick Bova  
Amy Françoise Coderre  
Ashley Connor  
Erin DeStratis  
Samantha DiReda  
Megan Lynne Gauvin  
Katherine Haranas  
Laura Hazel  
William Alexander Herrero  
Kristin Hope  
Jessica Marie Lamagdeleine  
Adriana Lebel  
Emily Nummelin  
Enrique Sanchez  
Kostika Stefo  
Jennifer L. Tangen  
Connor Zanini  
Karen M. Zeno

* August 2020 Graduate  
** December 2020 Graduate
Graduate Degree Recipients & Candidates

Spanish
Midaly Carraquillo Delgado
Zachary D’Orsi
Nora Bridget O’Brien**
Bethany Slade**

Speech Language Pathology
Jennifer E. Annis**
Rhianna Marie DePriest
Chelsea Laine Domian**
Kate Drabato
Gabrielle Marie Elwood
Kayla Jacqueline Flynn
Cassie Rae Ford
Rachel Mary Gerard**
Toniann E. Grossman
Bianna Lee Hackett**
McKayla Haley**
Collin Hart
Melanie Hunter**
Caleigh M Jacobson
Sarah Kary
Janesse Lazera
Emma Kathryn Leahey**
Aria Alaina Maggiacomo
Jacqueline Malm**
Abbie McCann**
Allyson Messier**
Bailey M. Pace**
Hannah Grace Renker**
Nicole Marie Ricciardi**
Kayla Supple**
Jessica Teixeira**
Annie Thibodeau**
Caitlin Marie Trombley**
Morgan Worley**

Education Specialist in School Psychology
Molly Andress
Julie Grace Boyd
Karissa Ashleigh Collins
Alexis Crawford
Kathryn Florio
Grace Anna Kim Levesque
Alyson L. Lisak
Hallie Beyer Lord
Stephanie Ann Martin
Jessica McElhatten-Landis
Rachel Miller
Jordan Orcutt
Carla Marie Yudin

Education Specialist in Secondary Education
Marisol Ramsay

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 2020 Graduate
** December 2020 Graduate
Special Recognition

Graduate Marshals
Lauren A. Banfield
Connor Zanini

Members of the
Board of Trustees
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Maryanne M. Hammond ’69, M.Ed. ’72, Vice Chair
Marina L. Taylor, Vice Chair
Lisa M. Colombo ’87
Aleta M. Fazzone
Anna Johnson ’22
Karen M. LaFond
William D. Mosley
Dina A. Nichols
Lawrence Sasso ’90, M.S. ’13
David H. Tuttle ’01

Members of
The Board of Higher
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Massachusetts
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Paul Mattera, J.D.
Michael O’Brien
Judy Pagliuca
James Peyser, Ex Officio
Paul F. Toner, J.D.
Charles Bianchi,
Student Member

Academic Ceremonies
Oversight Committee
Hulda Boateng ’21
Julie Chaffee
Dawn Eades
Tara Hancock
Nicole Kapurch
Roberta Kyle
Michael McKenna
Matthew Palm
Vincent Pellegrino ’21
Twishi Puri ’21
Karen Shalev ’21
Maia Shalev,
graduate student
Emily Soltano
Maureen Stokes
Henry Theriault

Academic Ceremonies
Organizing Committee
Bridget Carroll
Julie Chaffee
Tara Hancock
Nicole Kapurch
Joshua Katz
Roberta Kyle
Mark LaCroix
Fran Manocchio
Mike McKenna
Sarah McMaster
Kristie McNamara
John Meany
Maureen Stokes
Louise Taylor
Sarah Strout
Jonathan Tegg
Henry Theriault

Cover Watercolor
Mark Waitkus
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, 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 400-bed residence hall, named for Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan ’55, opened in the fall of 2014, and a 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