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Commencement Program: 2021 - College of Arts and Sciences

Governors State University

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2021 *GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY*
COMMENCEMENT
College of Arts and Sciences



This program is not an official university document.
The publication of the names of students does not necessarily constitute their official certification as graduates.
Governors State University is not responsible for any omissions, errors, and/or changes in this Commencement program.

A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Graduates,

Today, we celebrate your achievements at Governors State University's first-ever virtual Commencement ceremony.

As the university's sixth president, I joined Governors State last summer in the midst of the pandemic. Throughout this academic year, I have seen you adapt to unique and challenging circumstances in remarkable ways. While many students finished their experience entirely online, others donned masks to finish their courses in labs and studios.

Perseverance, grit, and tenacity – these characteristics are the hallmark of almost every college experience, but even more so for you, the graduates of 2021.

On behalf of the Governors State University Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, I congratulate you and wish you all the best as you take the next steps of your career or academic journey.

And to those who are joining us today – parents, spouses, relatives, and children – I thank you for your support of our graduates.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cheryl Green
President of Governors State University

GSU'S ROOTS

Governors State always was and still is a model of innovation. Founded in 1969 as an upper-division regional public university, GSU served as the premier institution for a highly motivated student population of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students. Located in Chicago's Southland, where the prairie meets the city, GSU's competency-based curriculum was ahead of its time. Transparency, intellectual curiosity, and diversity were hallmarks of its institutional identity.

That founding spirit of innovation and creativity still guides the institution today, now a four-year comprehensive university.

JAGUAR GEMS

From our accredited academic programs to our rankings for diversity and least student debt by U.S. News and World Report, Governors State University is a gem in the Chicago Southland. Our students, alumni, faculty, and staff are a source of great pride, and we honor their achievements.

Read more: govst.edu/jaguargems.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Governors State University is a hub for learning, culture, and innovation within the region. The university partners with community organizations, state and local governments, entrepreneurs, small businesses, major corporations, and economic development organizations to tackle societal challenges and advance economic growth in the region. Community and business collaborative efforts focus on realizing a shared vision for healthier and more engaged citizens, thriving economies, and a better tomorrow.



The Mace

The governor's mace, traditionally carried by the Faculty Senate President who leads the academic procession, is a symbol of the authority of the university as a degree-granting institution. The legal authority of the university is grounded in the intellectual authority of the distinguished faculty who follow in the procession.

In antiquity, the mace was a weapon used to establish the "authority" of the physically strong. Its transformation into a symbol of intellectual authority is both a tribute to and a reminder of the civilizing force of a university's teaching, research and community service functions.

Engraved on the four side-panels of the governor's mace are the seal of the State of Illinois; a cardinal, the state bird; the seal of the former Illinois Board of Governors Universities; and an inscription which reads "The governor's mace, a symbol of tradition and authority of Governors State University, dedicated to the search for excellence in the pursuit of truth, knowledge and the love of learning. Presented by Peter Levin, friend of the university, June 2, 1979."

Atop the mace is a silver rendition of the university logo. The three sides of the "triangle" symbolize the university's teaching, research and community service functions. The three lines visually suggest the shape of a rocket; reminding us both that the university was founded within days of Neil Armstrong setting foot on the moon and that the university is a hope-filled, pioneering community, committed to a better future for all men and women. The circle symbolizes the fact that the university is, indeed, a community. Finally, the fact that the tips of the triangle reach beyond the circle indicates the university's outreach into the region, state and nation, and its commitment to teaching, research and community service.

Order of Exercises

Saturday, May 22, 2021 • 10 a.m.

College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Cheryl Green, *University President*, Presiding

CALL TO ORDER..... Dr. David Golland, *Faculty Senate President*
WELCOME AND SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS Tony Labriola, *Master of Ceremonies*
NATIONAL ANTHEM..... Sessily Gianakos, *2021 Graduate*
GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.....Lisa M. Harrell, *Chair*
GREETINGS FROM THE FACULTY..... Dr. David Golland, *Faculty Senate President*
GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Kayla Siam, J.D.
STUDENT SPEAKER ADDRESS.....Jeanine Latrice Koger, *2021 Graduate*
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS Dr. Cheryl Green, *President*
PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE.....Dr. Elizabeth A. Cada, *Provost*
CONFERRING OF DEGREE Dr. Cheryl Green, *President*
HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT, DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS Jill Wine-Banks
PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATESDr. Elizabeth A. Cada, *Provost*
MESSAGE FROM THE DEANDr. Andrae Marak, *Dean*
CONFERRING OF DEGREES Dr. Cheryl Green, *President*
CLOSING REMARKS..... Tony Labriola, *Master of Ceremonies*

Honorary Degree Recipients

Jill Wine-Banks

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa

Before the term ‘shattering glass ceilings’ existed in the national lexicon, Jill Wine-Banks made it fashionable, leaving a trail of broken shards as evidence of her female existence.

A special prosecutor in Richard Nixon’s historic Watergate case, Wine-Banks advanced gender equality as the only woman on the team seeking criminal charges against the most powerful man in the world. In her fierce pursuit of justice and representation in a male-dominated legal world, Wine-Banks fought to overcome the sexism and gender discrimination women faced, including being described as “a girl,” “a lady lawyer,” and “the mini-skirted lawyer.” Now she sees those labels as emblematic of the obstacles of the era and – winking at that patriarchal system – titled her 2020 book “The Watergate Girl.”

After the Nixon trial, Wine-Banks continued blazing trails. In President Jimmy Carter’s Pentagon, Wine-Banks served as General Counsel of the Army where she helped integrate women into the ranks and introduced them to the exclusive club West Point. Back in her home state of Illinois, Wine-Banks stepped into the Deputy Attorney General role as the first woman to do so and then took the reins of the American Bar Association as the first female Chief Operating Officer.

Outside the world of plaintiffs and prosecutors, Wine-Banks’ brilliance shone as a corporate executive at two Fortune 500 companies. In the public and nonprofit sectors, she created Chicago’s first early college program as a Chief Officer of Chicago Public Schools and continues to work with public and private boards to advocate for their missions.

With a unique perspective on two Republican presidents who faced impeachment charges, Wine-Banks now offers legal analysis, most notably to MSNBC viewers seeking a rare and informed glimpse of the intersection of politics, history, and media.

For a lifetime of breaking barriers in the pursuit of justice for all – regardless of race, religion and gender – and for her continued demonstration of a commitment to Governors State University’s ideals of diversity and inclusion as well as to social justice for all students, the Board of Trustees is honored to award Jill Wine-Banks – legal scholar, author and analyst – the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. We welcome her into our community of inspirational scholars, artists, and educators.

J. Latrice Koger

J. Latrice Koger served her country for more than a decade as a member of the U.S. Army, and then used that training to serve faculty, staff, and students at Governors State University.

With determination and drive, Latrice has performed strategically in a series of ascending roles beginning with Treasurer for the Black Student Union, President of the Psychology Club and Vice President of Psi Chi International Honors Society. Latrice was a student representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Board of Trustees before being named to Governors State University’s Board of Trustees in 2020.

The same year, the Lincoln Academy of Illinois recognized Latrice’s overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities with the Student Lincoln Laureate honor. The award is given to one senior from each of the state’s four-year colleges for their contributions to “the betterment of humanity.”

In 2019, Latrice transferred to Governors State after earning her associate degree at Prairie State College as part of the university’s Dual Degree Program, a partnership with community colleges that provides students with a pathway to earn both an associate and bachelor’s degree in just four years.

At Prairie State, Latrice received awards —including the President’s Award — for her commitment, including stints as president of two honor societies, Psi Beta National Honor Society for Psychology and Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges and academic programs.

Now, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Governors State with a perfect GPA, Latrice said she plans to pursue a Master of Arts in Counseling because the community needs her.

College of Arts and Sciences

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Omayah Abbasi *
 Riziq Abdelruhman
 Aprile Abernathy
 Jenna Stacey Aggelopoulos
 Miranda Agopsowicz
 Mahmoud Ahmed
 Jose A. Amador, Jr.
 Sherrie L. Anderson **
 Jocelyn Arredondo
 Danielle R. Austin *
 Daniel E. Bacerott **
 Faten M. Baggili *
 Scott M. Banaszynski
 Pamela P. Banks
 Steven Richard Baran
 Cascian Barraia Loonam
 Kishawn L. Bedford
 Tiffany Beecham-Person
 Teara Euccesia Bell
 Elan J. M. Bengé ***
 Taya Lashay Benson
 Kourtney Machell Blackmon
 Laura Blackmond
 Brittany Nicole Bledsoe
 Kristen Yvette Bonner *
 Ashley Lynn Bopp *
 Essex Washington Bosan
 Megan Brady
 Samuel Brassfield
 Sharnita Breeze
 Nia C. Brown
 SheToya L. Brown
 Nyjah Ryann Brown-Watson
 Megan Janiece Buffkin
 Paris Burts
 Francisca Cabrales *
 Christie M. Caldwell *
 Elizabeth Anne Callan
 Lorena Y. Carreno
 Juan Cervantes
 Sandra I. Chapman
 Chrisena Clay
 Matthew John Clymer ***
 Thomas Cobb
 Anthony Cobillas *
 David L. Collins, Jr.
 Latoya V. Collins *

Lauren Collins *
 Valerie N. Collins
 Lynne A. Coughlin *
 Taylor Elia Coward *
 Shacarra Cummings
 Nicole Evette Farrow
 Amanda J. D'Antonio Poland **
 DeQuita Elaine Davis
 Tiffany Chantelle Julia Davis
 Unique Miracle Davis
 Wade Davis
 Ernest Jerome Dawson II
 Daniel Alejandro DeLeon
 Keely Danielle Deloache
 Katesha Shauna Demus
 Mac James Difoggio
 Darrell L. Donovan
 Desirae L. Douma
 Michelle Drink
 Kandace Nicole Dumas-Moore
 Damon Eaton
 Jazmine Edwards
 Angela Rose Ehrlicher *
 Natasha Louise Ehrlicher **
 Mallory Mary Elias
 Vanyette Exton *
 DeAndre Farmer
 Robert Lee Fifer
 Sagirah Florence
 Dazshaney Imani Floyd
 David Franklin **
 Joselina Fremouw **
 Alyssa Marie Galassini
 Megan Elizabeth Gamez ***
 Ayde Garcia
 Rodolfo Garcia **
 Sandra G. Garcia
 King D. Gaston *
 Megan Eliza Allen ***
 Ollie Latrice Gillaird
 Equarion Gills
 Gianina D. Glass
 Vanessa Kincaid
 Megan Glynn
 Pamela Ann Gordan
 Joseph Daniel Graziano
 Jasmine D. Griggs
 Karlette Gueringer *

Andres E. Guzman ***
 Jessica Jacqueline Hale *
 Diamond Demetria Heard
 Steveon Merrill Hegwood, Jr.
 Ebony Helm *
 Angela Henderson
 Jarikssa Hernandez
 DeVonne Higgins
 Gerard Hill
 Nicole T. Hill
 Julie Hodges ***
 Bogdan Jozef Hodorowicz *
 Joseph Ian Homere
 Colin Hovorka
 Chanel A. Howard
 George Jason Howard
 Mikayla Howard
 Raymond Howard
 Kristi Anne Howe **
 Devin Fredric Huff
 Inga Hutson
 Abigail Isunza
 Ananasia Ivory
 Lynette Sheree Jackson
 Qiana Jackson
 Krystle P. Jacox
 Alexys Jacquez
 Iwona Monika Jarog
 Brittany L. Johnson
 Wayne Donnell Johnson
 Theresa Olivia Jones
 Benjamin Jordan
 Tara Kabro
 Erik Kay ***
 Muhammad Mike Kazoun *
 Amber Rose Keefe
 Nathan Patrick Kehoe
 Courtney Nicole Keller ***
 Jalal Khater
 Lukasz Kikla *
 Kiya Evonn King
 August Anderson Klemp *
 Tracey Ladonna Kohlmeier ***
 David Kopec *
 Megan L. Moore Krause *
 Brittany LaFond ** §
 John Landgraf *
 Vanessa T. Lawrence

* = Cum Laude ** = Magna Cum Laude
 *** = Summa Cum Laude § = University Honors Program
 Academic honors awarded to undergraduate students only.
 For Commencement, cumulative GPA calculated through Fall 2020.

College of Arts and Sciences

Michelle Tracey Leaks *
Tanesha Nikeya Leblanc
Te'a Lee
Annie Sue Lemm
Mia Jauquise Leonard
Tyler William Linklater
Shenika Lockhart
Mena Loka ***
Fabian Lopez ***
Rodney Lucas
Aaron Michael Machroli
Malgorzata Janina Maka ***
Brendan Maloney
Martin Mariscal
Antonia Angela Martinez-Attanzio **
Melvin Mathew ***
Caniyah Lyn Matthews
Sade' May
Javon Ashia McCain
Timothy James McDowell
Jaylin Patrice McNeely
Angela Mendez
Nedra L. Meyer
Karen Miller
Michele Rena Miller
Jessica Miranda *
Dianna Gutierrez * §
Marc Antonio Monnier
Brianne Montesdeoca *
Brenda Montoya
Dennis Moore
Josue Fernando Moreno
Abdul Jaleel Ramadhan Muhammad
Anthony C. Muhammad
Arwa Muhanna ***
Jenna Bahadden Naser
Chastity M. Neal
Melissa Ann Nordstrom
Brianna Christine Oliver
Tiffany Oliver
Robert Arnold Hausner Owens
Tasia Noelle Page
Joseph Louis Panella
Nimisha K. Patel *
Raymond J. Phillips
Gary Andrew Poe, Jr.
Enjohnae Pointer
Dorothy A. Pondexter

Autumn Janae Price **
Mariosaria Provinzano
Hector S. Puente
VeRita D. Quinn
Susan R. Rademacher
David Kenneth Rainford, Jr. *
Peter Rasla
Luis C. Regalado **
Anna Tresvalles Reyes
Lasequ D. Richardson **
Tyler Martin Riemenschneider *
Jeremiah Ringo
Talesa Lanese Robbins
Robin Roberts-Henry
Nedra L. Robinson
Terence Paul Roche
Kenneka B. Rodgers
Victoria Roman
Sherrie Saez
Laura Amo Sanford
Mia Schumann **
Lorri Elizabeth Searcy
Andrew James Seiter *
Vincent Peter Senese
Duha M. Shorafa
Jenna Grace Short ***
Armoni Shorter
Heather Simon
Ashonte R. Sims
Jamin Sims
Joseph Smith
Lauren Ashley Snee
Kimberly Ann Snyder *
Traci Leigh Somrek
Linda Elizabeth Soto
Jacqueline Alyssa Stahler
Quinton Starzyk
Sincere Stiff
Trenton Jamal Stillwell
Gabrielle Stolarek
Angelica Strebing *
Renee LeVern Striverson
Ronnie Lorenzo Sulvita, Jr.
Jaclyn Ann Teske
Keiyomi Thomas
La'Quita S. Thomas
Shawn Thomas
Zhamarr Thompkins

Brandi Thompson-Lee
Teana Thompson
Matthew Timmons
Emmarina Torres
Kassidy Domonique Trice
Jarrell Turner
Kyle Turner
A'shanti O. Tyson
Melany Villagomez §
Zain Wadi
Rachael Walker
Tieanna Laverne Walker
Kennedi Inez Gabrielle Wallace
Tanisha Denise Ward
LaTonia D. Watson
Sade Sheri Watson
Kelly L. Weissbohn ***
Ashley White
Anne Marie Williams
Charlé Areiel Williams
James Williams
Tracie L. Wills ***
Kendal Wilson *
Abigail Olivia Woody
Valant M. Wright
Sylvia Rose Yepsen
Rachel Anne Mikottis

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Lauren Anais Buschek ***
Nicolas Isa Wolff Naliwko ***
Alexandria Pavloski *** §
Lauren Marie Payton **
Emily Sue Pointon **

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Eid Imad Abueid
Mohammad Abu-Romman *
Corey Bernard Adams, Jr.
Warrys Akadiri
Ehab Ali
Ali Mohamed Alsalah *
Marcus L. Amos
Anthony M. Anderson
Ivan Avila **
Ayooluwa Opeyemi Ayamolowo
Nathaniel Apollo Barnes
Lindsey Marie Berwanger
Van Nicholas Berwanger **

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College of Arts and Sciences

Zachary Best
Andrew Joseph Brescia ***
Nicholas Catuara
Cameron D. Covington *
German F. Cutz
Jim L. Czerniak, Jr. *
Malik A. Davis
Andrew DeAngelis **
Jeremy John Delosreyes
Brandon Adam Denton
Brandon Michael Dobson *
Jake Dusing **
Christopher Michael Dykstra **
Jimmy Quincy Ellis
Logan Enright *
Sayeeda Rakiah Fatima
Maritza Gallegos
Johmil Gaudiano
Reginald Granjean *
Omar Hamdan
Naheda Hammad
Sonia Handa
Madison Herlan **
Eugene Autry Herron III
Peter Ho
Samuel J. Hodak
Kenneth Hunter
Abidemi Damilola Ilesanmi
Tera Ivy
Derron Jackson ***
Kanasha Jackson
Sushila E. Jackson ***
Katarzyna Anastazja Jelonek ***
Jacob Jerkovich
Parthenia Jones
Matthew S. Kall *
Jillian Kinder
Mark Louis Kissinger **
Alexandra Christine Klopp
Maciek Kozlowski ***
Amy Marie Kukulka
Joseph Andrew Kuzminski
Olufolajimi Lawal
Brittany Alexa Lynch
Musa Maali **
Joseph Carl Majewski
Christopher Ellis Mallard
Syed Bilal Mansoor

Logan Forrest Miller
Timothy Patrick Lester Moeser
Douglas Alan Moldovan **
Madeleine Mary-Bertha Naliwko
Patrick David Nelson, Jr.
Declan Nichols **
Hussein Alaba Ninalowo
Ernesto Ojeda *
Edward Olszewski **
Nicholas C. Parente
Bhavikbhai M. Patel
Darshil Patel
Henil S. Patel
Viviana Pena *
Daniel Perez Paliero
Mark Plutnicki
Lincoln Elias Podgorski
Rodney Alan Ponton, Jr. ***
Robert Dean Reynolds, Jr. ***
Katie Robertson
Ricardo Rodriguez
Reiner Rolle *
Eric Peter Rusnak
Kevin Dexter Shane
Pramveer Singh
Rodney Spears
Kelly Stewart ***
Nathan Tabay
Bennett Talaber **
Tomasz Tralka ***
Kendall Triche
Aejaz Vahora
Ashrar Idrishakhtar Vahora *
Mahmad Vahora
Lino A. Vargas
Michael Vargas
Matteo Vazquez * §
Mohamad Salmaan Vhora **
Muhammad Ammar Vhora
Rashaan Terrell Walton
Jacob Quinn Warbiany
Joshua Theodore Wisniewski ***
Mansour Samed Yousef *
Mohammad A. Zamat
James Scott Zumhagen ** §

MASTER OF ARTS

Donnisha D. Bailey
Antonia K. Banks

Erica L. Bartley
Krishae Shawte Beamon
Kyle Richard Bergfors
Edward Bernard Clancy III
Ariel L. Davis
Monae LaDawn Drake
Wanda Fernandez
Nechawn T. Johnson
Denzel Jones
Athanasios W. Kolovos
Christina Diahanna Little
Ricca Louissaint
Elise L. Miller
Amanda Coleman-Mitchell
Sinclair A. Mitchell
Janice D. Montgomery
Wajeeda Ishak Musleh
Mable Christine Weatherby
Ricardo R. Ruiz
Katrice C. Sawyer
Cynthia Ivette Sepulveda
Lauren Shelby
Johnny T. Smith
Raylynn Latrice Stokes
Daniel Raymond Studer
Sierra Samone Williford
Kimberly R. Wingfield
Sarah Elizabeth Wiora

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Jeanetta T. Brown
Deborah Ann Burk
Peter J. Cummings
Melody Ann Freeman
Ronald Sturgess

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Toni Ashmore
Donnisha D. Bailey
Antonia K. Banks
Krishae Shawte Beamon
Lisa Lanette Brown
LaShanetta L. Bryant
Lauren M. Davis
Devon Dilworth
Wanda Fernandez
Katherine Gulde
James Hansen

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Karl Robert Jurgens
Iman Kort
Ricca Louissaint
Robin Lanette Miles
Janice D. Montgomery
Sonia D. Moore- Price
Robert Henry Platos
Valerie Marie Reyna
Melissa A. Rimdzius
Ricardo R. Ruiz
Chloe Tamesha Russell
Katrice C. Sawyer
Ashley Kenyanna Tapley
Felicia W. Warren
Kimberly R. Wingfield
Adam Wright

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Sainath Goud Algani
Sufiyan Ali Khan
Alugubelly Hemanth Reddy
Abena K. Hensley
Samantha Baio
Ramesh Pavan Bandaru
Carl Bevignani
Sai Kumar Bhukya Sangu
Eswar Ravi Kiran Bitragunta
Sumanth Boda
Amber Sherrell Brooks
Rohini Chauhan
Tharuni Chintapalli
Gabriela Olimpia Dordea
Sowjanya Dudipalla
Patricia Esparza
Mustafa Mushtaq Farooqui
Umairah Fateen
Todd Matthew Fatka
Anthony M. Franciskovich

Abhiram Goud Gaddam
Nalini Gajula
Alina Garcia
Clinton B. Garwood
Ram Sai Godavarthi
Swathi Golla
Varun Goti
Poojitha Guduru
Jacob J. Hunt
Carol Suzette Jackson
Vyshnavi Kasu
Virosha Reddy Kasula
Akshith Reddy Katkuri
Jahnvi Reddy Katta
Akheel Khan
Mohammed Shah Nawaz Khan
Salman Khan
Srinivas Kommalapati
Joseph Ravali Kommareddy
Sai Likhith Konduru
Jaswanth Rai Kotni
Akhil Reddy Kovvuri
Amruthraj Kukka
Cedelle D. Kupfer-Escobedo
Shiva Manchika
Stanislava Stoyanova Marrs
Dreyvon McCray
Nicholas Miller
Eric Miulli
Akram Khan Mohammed
Amer Rayyan Mohammed
Basheer Ahmed Mohammed
Jameel Uddin Mohammed
Taleb Mohammed Abdul
Likhita Sai Morla
Yashwanth Nagineni
Asrith Kumar Neti
Fayzulla Norkulov

Gabriella C. Nowobilski
Kayla O'Donohue
Patrick J. O'Leary
Seetha Lakshmi Palaniappan
Sudheer Pamulapati
Ashitaben Hemalkumar Patel
Mauro Patino
Durga Prasad Patnala
Daniel Paz
Pranahit Peddi
Naveen Kumar Penmetsa
Pittala Mythri
Venkat Naveen Kumar Ponnaganti
Devavrath Rao Ponugoti
Mokshith Anand Punjala
Anusha Putty
Bhavana Rajani
Edgar Joel Rubio
Vishwesh Vardhan Ryakala
Surya Manikyamba Saladi
Enas Ghazi Sallam
Qazi Hafez Mohammed Sayeed
Breuna Denise Smothers Nicholson
Uday Kumar Sriramadas
Jayanth Teegala
Nikhil Reddy Thipparthi
Srinavya Thirumalagiri
Sai Kumar Reddy Tumma
Reema Shravani Tummalapalli
Rajya Lakshmi Upendram
Jishnu Purna Vallabhaneni
Monica Sathya Vallabhaneni
Yoshitha Varre
Lauren Wallace
Jacquelyn F. Wolski
Sai Krishna Reddy Yarram Reddy
Diana Maribel Acosta
Axel David Rutter

← Honors Cords, Medallions, and Stoles for Commencement →

The medals worn by some graduates symbolize their completion of the GSU Honors Program.
The stoles or cords worn by some graduates symbolize their membership in an honor society or the Dual Degree Program.

Honors Program – for undergraduates only

Honors Program graduates complete a rigorous academic curriculum including an honors capstone with the goal of promoting leadership and personal development for the betterment of the students, the university, and the local and global community.

Program	Recognition	Color
GSU Honors Program	Medallion.....	Gold

University Honors – for undergraduates only

Honor	Recognition	Color
Cum Laude.....	Cord	White
Magna Cum Laude	Cord	Silver
Summa Cum Laude.....	Cord	Gold
Lincoln Laureate	Medallion	Gold

Honor Societies – for students who are members of these Honor Societies

Society	Recognition	Color(s)
Alpha Eta Society (Allied Health)	Cord.....	Green
Alpha IOTA Sigma (Interdisciplinary)	Cord.....	Blue and White
Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice).....	Cord.....	Royal Blue and Gold
Alpha Sigma Lambda (Adult Learners)	Cord.....	Burgundy and Antique Gold
Beta Gamma Sigma (Business).....	Cord.....	Royal Blue and Gold
Chi Sigma IOTA (Counselors).....	Stole.....	Blue and White
Kappa Delta Pi (Education)	Cord.....	Green and Purple
Lambda Pi Eta (Communication)	Cord.....	Crimson and Cream
Phi Alpha (Social Work)	Stole.....	Blue and Gold
Phi Theta Epsilon (Occupational Therapy).....	Cord.....	Navy and Gold
Pi Alpha Alpha (Public Administration).....	Stole.....	Light Blue and Gold
Psi Chi International (Psychology)	Cord/Stole.....	Dark Blue and Platinum/Platinum
SALUTE Veterans.....	Cord.....	Red, White, and Blue
Sigma Tau Delta (English)	Cord.....	Red and Black
Sigma Theta Tau (Nursing).....	Cord.....	Purple
Tau Sigma (Transfer).....	Cord.....	Burgundy and Gold
Student Senate (Student Governance)	Stole.....	Black and White
Upsilon Phi Delta (Healthcare).....	Cord.....	Blue and Red
Upsilon Pi Epsilon (Computer Science)	Cord.....	Maroon and White

Dual Degree Program – for undergraduates who entered GSU through the Dual Degree Program

Dual Degree Program Partner	Recognition	Color(s)
City Colleges of Chicago	Cord	Light Blue and Black and White
College of DuPage	Cord	Green and Black and White
Harper College	Cord	Blue and Black and White
Joliet Junior College.....	Cord	Purple and Black and White
Kankakee Community College	Cord	Red and Black and White
Moraine Valley Community College.....	Cord	Green and Black and White
Morton College	Cord	Blue and Black and White
Prairie State College.....	Cord	Green and Black and White
South Suburban College	Cord	Blue and Black and White
Triton College.....	Cord	Maroon and Black and White
Waubensee Community College.....	Cord	Maroon and Black and White

Academic Regalia

During the commencement ceremony, students and faculty wear academic costumes indicating the wearers' degrees, colleges/universities, and fields of study.

The Cap

The black mortarboard type is the most common cap worn. Degree candidates wear cap tassels that are black and white, the university colors. Colors worn by the faculty vary according to their fields of study.

The Gown

Gowns are of three kinds. The bachelor's gown is relatively simple, with lines falling straight from a fairly elaborate yoke. Its distinguishing characteristic is the long pointed sleeve. Braided silken cords are worn by students who have achieved special scholastic recognition. The master's and specialist's gowns have sleeves with a back end extending down below the knee in a crescent shape. The doctoral gown is an elaborate costume with velvet panels down the front and around the neck and three velvet bars on the bell-shaped sleeves.

The Hood

The official colors of the college or university from which a degree is conferred are represented in the lining of the hood. For each field of study, there is a corresponding trim color. While each program of study has a specific color, some programs display the same color. The repetitive color reflects the college (ex. Addictions Studies and Communication Disorders graduates earn a Master of Health Science for which the hood color is Salmon Pink). The trim colors for doctoral and master's hoods are as follows:

Degree Programs.....	Color
Accounting.....	Drab
Addictions Studies.....	Salmon Pink
Analytical Chemistry.....	Golden Yellow
Art.....	Brown
Business Administration.....	Drab
Communication Disorders.....	Salmon Pink
Communication and Training.....	White
Computer Science.....	Golden Yellow
Counseling.....	Light Blue
Counselor Education and Supervision.....	Light Blue
Criminal Justice.....	Navy
Early Childhood Education.....	Light Blue
Education.....	Light Blue
Educational Administration.....	Light Blue
English.....	White
Environmental Biology.....	Golden Yellow
Independent Film and Digital Imaging.....	Brown
Interdisciplinary Leadership.....	Light Blue
Health Administration.....	Salmon Pink
Management Information Systems.....	Golden Yellow
Mathematics.....	Bright Gold
Multicategorical Special Education.....	Light Blue
Nursing.....	Apricot
Occupational Therapy.....	Slate Blue
Physical Therapy.....	Teal
Political and Justice Studies.....	White
Psychology.....	Light Blue
Public Administration.....	Peacock Blue
Reading.....	Light Blue
School Psychology.....	Light Blue
Social Work.....	Citron

Dual Degree Program Graduates

Dual Degree Program graduates received distinctive cords for their academic regalia that intertwine GSU's colors — black and white — with the colors of the student's community college. These students have participated in the Dual Degree Program throughout their associate and bachelor's degree programs. Braiding these colors together symbolizes the partnership and shared goal of the community college and GSU; working together to help these students achieve academic success.

Investing In You

Now one of Governors State University's alumni, you represent the best of GSU. The GSU Foundation wishes you success in the next chapter of your life and personal and professional gratification in your future. Your story is GSU's identity. Your achievements reflect GSU's triumph, and our success enhances your accomplishments.

Today, we invite you to accept the pledge to invest in GSU for a minimum of \$250 paid over the next five years. This collective gift from each of you leaves a legacy from the Class of 2021. Every commitment matters. Please take action and make a difference.

Visit www.govst.edu/donate to make your donation. For more information, please call Lauren Healy at 708.534.8390 or email lesolato@govst.edu. Donors will be recognized on our website.

GSU Alumni Association

The Alumni Association connects graduates with each other, as well as to professional development, networking, and social and volunteer opportunities. As a graduate of GSU, the Alumni Association is your organization. Your engagement in the association can help make it what you need it to be for your success, both personally and professionally.

As GSU alumni, you represent the very best the university has to offer. Please advocate for GSU in your personal and professional networks, and encourage others to investigate opportunities to attend and/or support your alma mater. We welcome your return to campus and encourage you to volunteer as a mentor, leader, or lifelong learner, and join one of our growing alumni clubs.

The Alumni Association and generations of GSU alumni are proud to welcome the Class of 2021 to its ranks.

Congratulations and we look forward to seeing you soon! Visit www.govst.edu/alumni for more information.

Stay Connected

The memories you have made as a Jaguar will not only last you a lifetime—they will add to the collective story of the university's alumni.

Use the social media hashtag #GovStateGrad to share the culmination of the journey to your degree on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok and Twitter.

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GSU's Birthday/Day of Giving • July 14, 2021 ***Save the date!***

Join us on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, as Governors State University commemorates 52 years of excellence and innovation with an evening of family, music, and revelry at our annual Day of Giving Celebration*.

The entire community will come together for a free “family reunion” in Park Forest for *Main Street Nights* – a free concert featuring Kaben Kafö – Djembe Drum Ensemble and Mucca Pazza. The July 14 celebration is an event that marks the founding of GSU with a Day of Giving to continue a legacy of education. This year also celebrates the 25th anniversary of the university’s Center for Performing Arts.

Conceived as a bold, new model to transform lives through education in Chicago’s south suburbs, GSU opened the same week the U.S. sent Apollo 11 to the moon. Today, GSU is a full-service, four-year university celebrating 52 years of education, service, and commitment to its mission to be an “intellectually stimulating public square.”

We advance our mission through high quality programs supported by best practices, made possible in part by the generous the support of our donors.

In honor of GSU’s 52nd birthday, please join us on Wednesday, July 14. And please consider donating \$52 or more to commemorate the university’s anniversary and to support future GSU students.

Visit www.govst.edu/donate to donate. For more information, please call 708.534.4105.

*per IDPH guidelines

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Governors State University would like to express our deepest sympathies to all who have been impacted by the loss of loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, we also celebrate the lives of Jaguars who left an indelible mark on the university's faculty, staff and students. Our lives and our communities are forever changed by their life's passion, purpose, and commitment to provide an accessible and exceptional education.

