



2023
COMMENCEMENT
Ceremony

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023 | 5:00 P.M.
OAK LAWN HIGH SCHOOL | PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Dr. Tonya Troka, Chief Academic Officer

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

"POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE"

NATIONAL ANTHEM

"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

INVOCATION

Dr. Lauren Spraggins, Dean of
Violet L. Schumacher School of Nursing

WELCOME AND REMARKS

Dr. Tonya Troka, Chief Academic Officer

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT SPEAKER

Dean Christina Garcia, Dean of Academic Affairs

STUDENT SPEAKER

Ms. Katherine Cox
Violet L. Schumacher School of Nursing

CONFERRING OF DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

Mr. Lawrence W. Schumacher, President

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Lauren Spraggins, Dean of
Violet L. Schumacher School of Nursing

Dean Christina Garcia, Dean of Academic Affairs

RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

Dr. Tonya Troka, Chief Academic Officer

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Tonya Troka, Chief Academic Officer

CLOSING SONG



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Class of 2023,

Congratulations! On behalf of the Board of Directors, Administration, Faculty and Staff of Northwestern College it is with great joy and admiration that we extend our warmest congratulations to each one of you on your remarkable achievement.

Today, we gather to celebrate not only your academic accomplishments but also the personal growth, determination, and resilience that have brought you to this momentous milestone. Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to your education have paid off, and I want to express my utmost pride in your achievements.

Graduation is a time of reflection, a time to appreciate the challenges you have overcome and the lessons you have learned along the way. Throughout your time at Northwestern College, you have demonstrated a thirst for knowledge, an eagerness to explore new ideas, and a passion for making a positive difference in your community. I have been President of Northwestern College for 45 years, and I am continuously impressed and humbled by the stories so many of you have about what it took to get to this day.

I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the support you have received from your families, friends, faculty, and staff members who have guided and inspired you throughout your educational journey. Their belief in you and their unwavering encouragement have been instrumental in your success. Remember to express your gratitude and let them know the impact they have made on your life.

As you step forward into the next chapter of your life, whether it be continuing your education, entering the workforce, or pursuing other aspirations, I want you to remember that your journey does not end here. The skills and knowledge you have gained during your time at Northwestern College have equipped you to overcome any future obstacles that may come your way.

Embrace the challenges that lie ahead with confidence and determination. You are equipped to make a difference, both in your personal lives and in the world around you. Embrace opportunities for lifelong learning and continue to foster the spirit of curiosity that has brought you to this point. Pursue your dreams relentlessly and let nothing deter you from achieving the goals you have set for yourselves.

Finally, always remember that you are a part of the Northwestern College family. Our doors are always open to you, and we are here to support you throughout your journey. Congratulations, graduates!

Sincerely,

Lawrence Schumacher, President



STUDENT SPEAKER



KATHERINE COX

NURSING

Due to economic factors related to the COVID19 Pandemic, Katherine was laid off from her current position. She used this catalyst as an opportunity to pursue her degree in Nursing. She turned to her best friend and NC Alumna Jasmine Mitchell who provided her with guidance, and she enrolled at Northwestern College. Katherine is the proud mother of Jonathan McKinney. She has a love for animals, especially cats. Katherine plans to become an ER Nurse post-graduation and aspires to one day become a Nurse Practitioner.

Congratulations

#NC2023GRAD



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Krystal Wilson



ACADEMIC REGALIA

The style of academic regalia worn in today's commencement originated in medieval European universities and has undergone little modification since the 16th century. As in the Middle Ages, the attire denotes the wearer's academic accomplishment. In 1895, a code was adopted to specify design and appropriate colors for various degrees.

The modern dress consists of a gown or robe, headpiece, and hood. The gown denotes the wearer's level of education, with the baccalaureate gown being the simplest in design. Usually black, it is distinguished by open, flowing sleeves which end in a point. The wearing of a red and grey braided cord, worn draped from the neck on the front of the gown, designates the wearer as an honors graduate.

The master's gown has a very long, closed or glove sleeve which is open at the wrist. The doctoral gown is full flowing and has large bell-shaped sleeves. While black is still the predominate color, the color of the gown may denote the wearer's university. Official guests of the College and members of the Board of Directors wear the doctor's gown. The headpiece in most American universities is a mortar board. Tassel colors may denote the discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned. Doctoral tassels are often gold. The soft velvet Tudor cap is also worn by many who hold the doctorate.

It is the hood that adds meaning to the academic regalia. The bachelor's hood, when worn, is comparatively short; the master's is a bit longer; and the doctor's, at four feet, reaches far down the wearer's back. Changed little since the Middle Ages, the hood is worn falling from the shoulders down the back of the gown in a display of color. It is edged in velvet, which by its color denotes the discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned. It is lined in two colors of silk which represent the college or university from which the degree was awarded.

A partial listing of colors signifying disciplines as standardized in the 1895 Intercollegiate Code includes:

Arts and Letters.....White	Law.....Purple	Physical Education..... Sage Green
Commerce and Accounting...Drab	Library Science..... Lemon	Public Administration. Peacock Blue
Economics.....Copper	Music..... Pink	Science.....Golden Yellow
Education.....Light Blue	Nursing.....Apricot	Theology..... Scarlet
Fine Arts and Architecture...Brown	Pharmacy..... Olive Green	
Humanities..... Dark Crimson	Philosophy..... Dark Blue	

STUDENT REGALIA

This year the Graduates of Northwestern College are wearing environment friendly regalia from the Jostens Elements Collection™. Elements™ regalia is truly sustainable as it starts from nature and returns to nature.

- The gown fiber is sourced from renewable managed forest
- The fabric is proven to decompose in soil within one year and is a USDA certified bio-based product
- The zipper tape and teeth are made from 100% recycled PET

Jostens uses earth-friendly plastic packaging which is also proven to decompose in a landfill within a reasonably short time. It contains ECM Bio Films™ material that facilitates the decomposition process.

Each Elements™ gown comes with a large tag which educates the student about the gown and encourages their participation in our Student Give Back Program. For every response received, Jostens will donate \$1 to an environmentally sustainable project. Over \$50,000 has currently been donated to the Nature Conservancy through the Student Give Back Program.

At Northwestern College, we are committed to creating a greener and more sustainable campus environment. College students and campuses are at the forefront of environmental awareness and green habits. Incorporating environmentally friendly regalia was just one more way for Northwestern College to make a difference and protect our environment.



GRADUATION HONORS

CUM LAUDE INDICATES A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.50-3.74

MAGNA CUM LAUDE INDICATES A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.75-3.99

SUMMA CUM LAUDE INDICATES A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 4.00



CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

This program is not an official college document. Due to rigid time requirements, it must be published before the final lists of graduate candidates can be determined.

The exclusion of the name of a student is not to be taken as an indication of his or her official status as a non-graduate, nor is the inclusion of the name of a student to be taken as certification of his or her official status as a graduate. Additionally, grade point average may not reflect all coursework completed.

Candidates for
ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Nour Abdulla

Radiologic Technology
Magna Cum Laude

Kristina Bratt

Radiologic Technology
Summa Cum Laude

Arthur Browder

Radiologic Technology
Magna Cum Laude

Rachel Church

Radiologic Technology

Diana Darwish

Radiologic Technology
Cum Laude

Charleen Delair

Radiologic Technology

Luz Garcia

Health Information Technology

Hayley Jesionowski

Radiologic Technology
Cum Laude

Yasmine Matariyeh

Radiologic Technology
Magna Cum Laude

Leah McCowan

Radiologic Technology
Magna Cum Laude

Edyta Mucha

Health Information Technology
Cum Laude

Stephanie Napoles

Radiologic Technology
Cum Laude

Tyler Orel

Radiologic Technology

Erika Pickett

Radiologic Technology

Adriana Ramirez Chavez

Radiologic Technology

Mayra Rosales

Radiologic Technology
Cum Laude

Antonette Salter

Health Information Technology

Lisa Singer

Health Information Technology
Cum Laude

Marisol Valdez

Health Information Technology

Alex Volz

Radiologic Technology
Magna Cum Laude

Montese Washington

Health Information Technology
Magna Cum Laude

Candidates for
ASSOCIATE DEGREES IN NURSING

Andrea Aguilar
Nursing

Ayah Al-Goare
Nursing

Lasheena Allen
Nursing

Nicole Anaya
Nursing
Magna Cum Laude

Tiffany Baniaga
Nursing

Kristen Blake
Nursing

Shanika Blatcher
Nursing

Chyna Cade
Nursing

Deana Cager
Nursing

Jasmine Cokes
Nursing

Arriane Collins
Nursing

Katherine Cox
Nursing

Bridget Croff
Nursing

Sharnice Davis
Nursing

Whitney Evans
Nursing

Lashanda Gaiter
Nursing

Julian Gonzales
Nursing

Sinsabeth Guevara
Nursing

Latoya Holliday
Nursing

Taraniika Humphrey
Nursing

Charron Johnson
Nursing

Lashundia Key
Nursing

Miondra Nickson
Nursing

Edwina O'Neal
Nursing

Devin Otero
Nursing

Matthew Rouba
Nursing

Selena Senase
Nursing

Candidates for CERTIFICATES

Jennifer Abrigo
Dental Assisting

Raneen Allan
Dental Assisting
Magna Cum Laude

Australia Anderson
Dental Assisting
Cum Laude

Cashmere Bell
Dental Assisting

Adrianna Burney
Medical Assisting

Juanita Camacho
Medical Assisting

Krystal Campos
Medical Assisting

Latara Carey
Dental Assisting

Mariah Clark
Medical Assisting

Brittany Daniel
Dental Assisting

Aveance Davis
Medical Assisting

Angelica Delgado Roldan
Dental Assisting
Cum Laude

Rosa Espinoza
Dental Assisting

Zena Gillett
Medical Assisting
Cum Laude

Monica Giron-Esteban
Medical Assisting

Derashia Gist
Medical Assisting

Sarah Harper-Brazzle
Medical Assisting

Alexis Hubbard
Medical Assisting
Cum Laude

Holly Johnson
Dental Assisting

Dareona McDonald
Medical Assisting

Marina Mora
Medical Assisting

Kristie Myrickes
Medical Assisting
Magna Cum Laude

Nour Nassan
Medical Assisting
Summa Cum Laude

Racheal Ratliff
Medical Assisting

Teresa Ray
Medical Assisting

Jazmine Rodriguez
Dental Assisting
Cum Laude

Michelle Rodriguez
Dental Assisting
Cum Laude

Troitiana Roussell
Dental Assisting

Marlene Sanchez
Dental Assisting
Cum Laude

Imari Schaeffer
Medical Assisting
Magna Cum Laude

Yesenia Serna
Dental Assisting

Jasmine Shamley
Medical Assisting

Carson Sheffield
Dental Assisting

Jasmine Sheppard
Medical Assisting

Lana Suleiman
Dental Assisting
Summa Cum Laude

Murad Suleiman
Dental Assisting

Angel Sutton
Medical Assisting

Stephanie Verbooneen Sosa
Medical Assisting

Hermeine Williams
Medical Assisting

Kourtne Williams
Dental Assisting

Jessica Zavala-Martinez
Medical Assisting

A Fond Farewell To



OMAR BERNAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IT
SEPTEMBER 9, 1987 TO JULY 21, 2023

The close of the academic year is a time for celebration and reflection. Commencement takes center stage during this time of year signifying a new beginning for recent graduates. This is also a time when some of our valued staff have decided to retire.

Northwestern College would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to Omar Bernal for 36 years of dedicated service and commitment. Throughout his time here, Omar has made a significant impact on our students, faculty and staff, and we are grateful for his contributions.

He is a Northwestern College graduate himself, and the passion he has shown in everything he has done has been inspiring. In 1985, Omar graduated with a degree in computer programming from Northwestern College (formerly Northwestern Business College).

It has been a pleasure to work with him over the years, and we will miss the kindness, professionalism, and expertise he brought to our community.

Our best wishes go out to him as he embarks on this new chapter in his life. He will always be a valued member of the Northwestern College Family.



STAY CONNECTED

SOCIAL MEDIA

We invite you to join the commencement celebration on social media. We will share pictures and videos from the commencement ceremony on our pages. If you'd like to share your pics, please make sure to tag us and use **#NC2023Grad** in your social media posts.

Click on the icons below to go to our social media page.



SHARE YOUR STORY

We encourage you to stay connected with the college no matter where you go. We know that each alum has a unique story to tell. Share your story to inspire the next generation of NC Alumni by submitting your story online at <https://nc.edu/share-story/>.

#NC2023GRAD

**CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN ON YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT
NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE.**

Special Thanks To

GRADUATION COMMITTEE

Northwestern College extends its appreciation to the following:

Tina Marfoe
Marta Rybak

AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WORK DURING THE 2023 COMMENCEMENT EVENT!

Omar Bernal
Cynthia Berryman
Glendalyn Booker
Griselda Calderon
Sarah Dulay
Traci Gaona
Sara Gettinger
Lakeisha Hopson

Ryan Lewis
Stenita Major
Juan Martinez
Loreena Moody
Samantha Nasir
Miryam Ortiz
Robert Ruiz
Eleanore Sasewich

Gail Schumacher
Lauren Schumacher
Lidia Stanina
Walter Thompson
Alexis White
Tanisha Williams
Krystal Wilson



 **NorthwesternCollege**



NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Northwestern College educates, prepares, and empowers its diverse student body to pursue their professional goals. Our career focused programs that are taught in a student-centered learning community provide employers with passionate qualified graduates.



2023 COMMENCEMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Through its commencement ceremony, Northwestern College recognizes those individuals whose dedication, commitment, and integrity has guided them to achieve their academic goals. In marking this point of accomplishment, family, friends, faculty, and staff join our graduates in celebrating this joyous occasion.

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