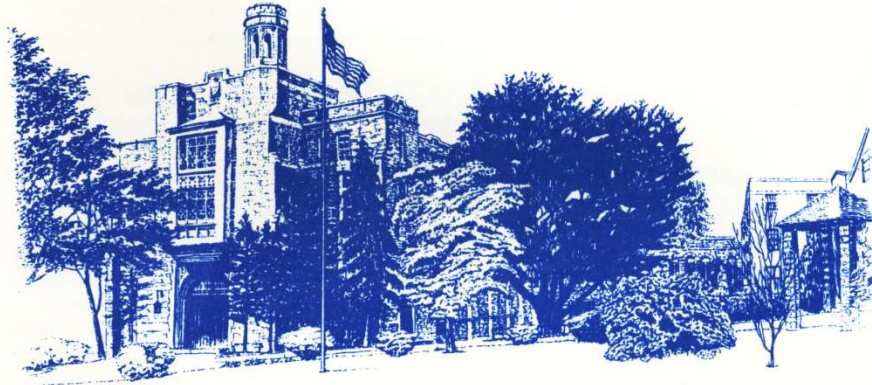


# Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

*The College that Empowers Student Success*



## Seventy First Annual Commencement Exercises Honors and Awards

*Pennsylvania Institute of Technology Theater*

*2:30 p.m.*

*Thursday, April Fourth*

*Two Thousand Twenty-Four*

**71ST**  
  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
**1953-2024**

**Pennsylvania Institute of Technology**  
**Commencement Ceremony**  
**ORDER OF EXERCISES**

*Processional\** ..... *Pomp and Circumstance*

*Star Spangled Banner\**

*Welcome* ..... *Marquise Isaac-Rivers, MeD*  
*Director of Student Affairs*

*Introduction of President* ..... *Heather Pflieger, EdD*  
*Vice President of Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer*

*President's Address* ..... *H. Matthew Meyers, BA, MBA*  
*President*

*Introduction of Commencement Speaker* ..... *H. Matthew Meyers, BA, MBA*

*Commencement Address* ..... *Barbara Wadsworth, DNP, RN, MBA*

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

*Biography and Introduction of Valedictorian* ..... *Dr. Heather Pflieger*

*Co-Valedictorian's Speech* ..... *Temitope Ojewale*

*Co-Valedictorian's Speech* ..... *Nathan Ullrich*

*The Valedictorian Award is presented to the graduate with the  
highest cumulative grade point average.*

*President's Award* ..... *Tamika R. Canady*

*The President's Award is presented to the graduate chosen by the President  
for meritorious service to the College and for academic excellence.*

*Founder's Award* ..... *Myra Rose Pedrazzani*

*The Founder's Award is presented to the graduate who exemplifies  
the College's Mission to help deserving students help themselves through a technical education.*

**\*The audience is requested to stand during the Processional and Star Spangled Banner. Men please remove your hats during the Star Spangled Banner.**

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS (Continued)**

*Practical Nurse’s Clinical Award* ..... *Dashon Brodie*

*Hazel Johnson-Brown Nursing Award* ..... *Nyaa Destiny Lino*

*Program of Study Awards* ..... *Dr. Heather Pfleger*

*Cannabis Horticulture Award  
to Rachel Martin*

*Clinical Medical Assistant Award  
to La’Shai Calhoun*

*Practical Nursing Award  
to Chantelle Myers*

*Health Care Management Award  
to Andrea M. Mancuso*

*Clinical Medical Assistant Certificate Program Graduates* ..... *Program Director*

*Associate Degree Graduates* ..... *Program Directors*

*Final Award Remarks* ..... *Kamira A. Evans*

**DEGREE CONFERRAL AND CLOSING**

*Presentation of Candidates for Certificates and Degrees* ..... *Dr. Heather Pfleger*

*Farewell to Graduates* ..... *H. Matthew Meyers*

*Conclusion* ..... *Kamira A. Evans*

*Recessional* ..... *Stars and Stripes Forever*

**Please remain in place until the Academic Procession leaves.**

**2024 Graduating Class  
ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS**

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE  
ALLIED HEALTH-PRACTICAL NURSING**

*Lachelle Patricia Stokes\**

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

*Ja'nae Bryant*

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE  
CANNABIS BUSINESS**

*Samuel L. Isaacs (SH)*

*Cheryl Snyder (MH)*

*Jordan Vargas\**

*Jessica Consuelo Vinasco*

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE  
CANNABIS HEALTH THERAPY**

*Danielle Corsey*

*Rose Marie Johnson*

*Melissa Leedy (SH)*

*Gabriella A. Rosswog (SH)*

*Marissa Umbrell\**

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE  
CANNABIS HORTICULTURE**

*Perry Daniels*

*Eric Donnelly*

*Tim Hilsey\**

*Rachel Martin\**

*Emma G. Shearer (SH)*

*Nathan Ullrich (SH)*

*Emily Zeigler*

**NOTE:**

*\*= Potential Graduate*

*(DD) Dual Degree Recipient*

*(CH) = Cum Laude Honors (with honors); 3.50-3.69 cumulative grade point average*

*(MH) = Magna Cum Laude Honors (with high honors); 3.70 – 3.89 cumulative grade point average*

*(SH) = Summa Cum Laude Honors (with highest honors); 3.90-4.00 cumulative grade point average*

Academic decisions cannot always be resolved before the printing of the program; therefore, the Pennsylvania Institute of Technology reserves the right to add or remove names from the list of candidates for degrees and certificates.

# 2024 Graduating Class ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

## ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT

*Andrea M. Mancuso\**

*Laura Robinson*

*Melissa Thomas\**

## ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE PSYCHOLOGY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

*Tamira L. Robinson*

## CERTIFICATE PRACTICAL NURSING

<i>Nihemia D. Able</i>	<i>Tiffany Harris</i>	<i>Temitope Ojewale (SH)</i>
<i>Kami Allison</i>	<i>Breona C. Henry</i>	<i>Dymond Ottey</i>
<i>Kelliann Ashley</i>	<i>Kwilan Hodge</i>	<i>Myra Rose Pedrazzani (MH)</i>
<i>Yeanoh Eleanoh Bangura</i>	<i>Naruth Q. Jimmy</i>	<i>Nikeshia Pitts</i>
<i>Christina G. Barksdale</i>	<i>Zainab Kamara</i>	<i>Natasha Purnell</i>
<i>Nolah Brockington</i>	<i>Baye Kassambara</i>	<i>Aleea Robinson</i>
<i>Dashon Brodie (CH)</i>	<i>Nyaa Destiny Lino</i>	<i>Claritza Jazmin Rodriguez</i>
<i>Ilia Brown</i>	<i>Jessica Lukens</i>	<i>Haja Sidime Sherif</i>
<i>Tamika R. Canady</i>	<i>Brittney Mahoney</i>	<i>Jackie Speare</i>
<i>Turquoise Chapman</i>	<i>Alyssa J. Malatesta</i>	<i>Morgan Spratt</i>
<i>Mariah Davis</i>	<i>Tashay Marks</i>	<i>Martysha Sutton</i>
<i>La'Brea Day</i>	<i>Nicole Martin</i>	<i>Chantelle Tapper</i>
<i>Erienne Ronnai Dennis</i>	<i>Bianca Mason</i>	<i>Akayla Thompson</i>
<i>Fatima Dennis</i>	<i>Shaneeca Shanell Mathis</i>	<i>Fanta Traore</i>
<i>Daceia Dixon Lubin</i>	<i>Megan McDaniel</i>	<i>Paula Tucker</i>
<i>Eboni Nicole Drake</i>	<i>Haley McKee</i>	<i>Rachel T. Verdier</i>
<i>Asia Fulton</i>	<i>Abiodun Michael</i>	<i>Krystal Vincent</i>
<i>Mykia Gardiner</i>	<i>Jannet Y. Momolu</i>	<i>Geraldine Juah Wah</i>
<i>Shaikurrah Giles</i>	<i>Beatrice Mulbah</i>	<i>Latanya Walker</i>
<i>Amber Graves</i>	<i>Chantelle Renee Myers</i>	<i>Denise C. Washington</i>
<i>Rashae Griffin</i>	<i>Yamina Nait Ali</i>	<i>Quaya Worthington</i>

## CERTIFICATE CLINICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANT

*La'Shai Calhoun\**

*Adira Harris\**

*Tyshirah Martin\**

### NOTE:

*\*= Potential Graduate*

*(DD) Dual Degree Recipient*

*(CH) = Cum Laude Honors (with honors); 3.50-3.69 cumulative grade point average*

*(MH) = Magna Cum Laude Honors (with high honors); 3.70 – 3.89 cumulative grade point average*

*(SH) = Summa Cum Laude Honors (with highest honors); 3.90-4.00 cumulative grade point average*

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## AWARD WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

### Valedictorian Temitope Ojewale

*Temitope was born in a small town in the heart of Nigeria to hardworking parents who instilled in her the value of compassion and perseverance. Growing up, Temitope's mother was her guiding light. Her selflessness and unwavering dedication to caring for others sparked her interest in nursing from a young age. Transitioning to school presented many challenges, particularly balancing coursework with clinical rotations and personal commitments. However, she adapted and thrived in this new environment with determination and resilience. Adversity has been a companion on Temitope's journey, but it showed her the invaluable lessons of resilience and strength. Whether overcoming personal obstacles or navigating the demands of nursing school, she emerged stronger and more determined than ever before. As Temitope embarks on the next chapter of her journey, she plans to secure a position in a healthcare institution where she can make a meaningful difference in patients' lives. While further education may be on the horizon, she is focused on gaining real-world experience and honing her craft for now. She had many people support her journey through nursing school, including her employer, her classmates, and her friends. She has a special place in her heart for her nephews, who have brought her so much joy! Outside of professional pursuits, Temitope enjoys road trips and spending quality time with loved ones. These activities serve as a source of rejuvenation and balance in life, ensuring that she approaches each day with renewed energy and enthusiasm.*

### President's Award Tamika R. Canady

*Tamika Canady is a native of Philadelphia. She grew up in North Philadelphia and was raised by her mother, Camilla Brown, and father, James Canady. Even though the environment was not the safest, her strongest memories are of all the good times with her parents, who ensured she had a great upbringing. Tamika always knew she would end up in healthcare because she adores caring for others. She has been married for over a decade to her husband Antione Moye, and they have 2 beautiful daughters, Nakayla Jackson (17) and Jennah Whiteman (9). While attending school, her husband and kids were incredibly helpful and supportive because they made sure everything at home was done and in place! The only things Tamika had to worry about were school and work. After gaining experience as an LPN, she plans to return to school to earn her RN/BSN, with her ultimate goal to become a Nurse Practitioner in Psych. Tamika feels that the time spent at P.I.T. will never be forgotten and has fueled her ambition. She has seen that she can do anything she puts her mind to, and everything she wants is on the other side of fear! She will not stop until she achieves her goals. Thank you, P.I.T.!*

## AWARD WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

### Cannabis Horticulture Award

Rachel Martin

*After registering as a PA medical marijuana patient in 2020, Rachel Martin became passionate about the study of horticulture and the medical applications of the cannabis plant. While at PIT, Rachel became a Phi Theta Kappa honors society member and completed her degree with a cumulative GPA of 4.0. In her free time, she enjoys going to the gym, hiking, bouldering, and spending time with her pets. After graduation, Rachel plans to continue working at Curaleaf, where she has been employed since October 2023. Her plans include returning to college to study pastry arts, hoping to start a cannabis-infused dessert company. She would like to thank her family, her boyfriend Reece, and her instructors Lou Giannotti, Stephen Miller, and Diana DiPreto for their support throughout her degree.*

### Hazel Johnson-Brown Nursing Award

Nyaa Destiny Lino

*Nyaa Lino was born and raised in Hopkins, Belize, and is the second oldest of seven siblings. She was inspired to attend nursing school when she was 14 years old when her grandmother got sick; Nyaa and her siblings took turns caring for her. Ever since then, Nyaa has committed to working in healthcare, working as a home health aide for eight years. Her inspiration is her faith and belief in God. He is the reason and the motivation for who she is today. Nyaa has a 5-year-old son named Kamari, who has been her primary motivation to further her education. Her companion, Terriek, was her biggest supporter throughout nursing school; from the beginning to the last day, he spent long hours helping her study. Nyaa plans to continue her nursing education at LaSalle University. She hopes to move towards a career as a labor and delivery nurse.*

### Practical Nursing Award

Chantelle Myers

*Chantelle Myers is a native of Chester, PA. She has a 16-year-old son, Brennen, and an 8-year-old daughter, Brielle. Her greatest inspirations growing up are the strongest women she knows--her mother, Angela; her grandmother, Barbara; and her aunts, Carin and Valerie. She became interested in nursing after working as a patient care technician on an oncology floor at Crozer Chester Medical Center. Balancing being a mother, working 2 jobs, and being a full-time student was a big adjustment, but she had a great support system. This allowed Chantelle to maintain high academic honors through every term of the nursing program, and she plans to return to school for her BSN within the next year. Chantelle's goal is to work in a cancer center someday. She wants to thank her mom, Valerie, her kids, and their father, Branden, for being her biggest supporters throughout this journey.*

## ALPHA ALPHA ALPHA, THETA NU CHAPTER

*Alpha Alpha Alpha, or Tri-Alpha, was founded March 24, 2018 at Moravian College (now Moravian University) in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Over 100 members of the Alpha Chapter were initiated that day, including undergraduate students, faculty, staff, alumni, and honorary members. Following the successful induction, the College took steps to incorporate Alpha Alpha Alpha so that chapters could be started on other campuses across the country. Tri-Alpha exists as a not-for-profit (501(c)3) organization, for the purposes of supporting the activities of the honors society.*

*To be eligible for membership, a student must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of course work and earn a grade point average of 3.2 or higher. Students must maintain a high academic standing throughout their two-year college experience.*

*Theta Nu, P.I.T.'s chapter, was chartered in 2024 and has recently inducted its first chartering members.*

*Alpha Alpha Alpha Honor Society, Theta Nu Chapter Advisor  
Marquise Isaac-Rivers*

### 2024 INDUCTEES

*Danielle Corsey*

*Mary McQueen*

*Crystal Smith*

*Cara Flagg*

*Chantelle Myers*

*Cheryl Snyder*

*Salena Huffnagle*

*Jasmire Powell*

*Michael Thompson*

*Tiffany Lark*

*Loni Ravenell*

*Colleen Watson*

*Nyaa Destiny Lino*

*Laura Robinson*

*Nylo-Jeanette White*

*Iris Lopez*

*Kali Scurdy*

### CHAPTER ADVISOR

*Marquise Isaac-Rivers*



## PHI THETA KAPPA, ALPHA PSI MU CHAPTER

*Founded in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education. The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To achieve this, Phi Theta Kappa provides for the development of leadership and service, an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, lively fellowship for scholars, and stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence. The name "Phi Theta Kappa" was taken from the initial letters of the three Greek words meaning "wisdom," "aspiration," and "purity."*

*To be eligible for membership, a student must complete a minimum of 12 hours of associate degree course work and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Students must maintain a high academic standing throughout their two-year college experience.*

*Alpha Psi Mu, P.I.T.'s chapter, was chartered in 1993 and has inducted over 500 students as members.*

*Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Alpha Psi Mu Chapter Advisor  
Elizabeth Castelli-Bryant*

### 2024 INDUCTEES

*Alexis Barclift  
Nicole Best  
Ja'nae Bryant*

*Andrew Crawford  
Kayla D'Annunzio  
Parlita Jarillo  
Tessa Pierre*

*Stephanie Roman  
Crystal Smith  
Michael Thompson*

### CHAPTER ADVISOR

*Elizabeth Castelli-Bryant*

### SENIOR MEMBERS

*Dominique Jessica Brower(2019)  
Terrence Jerome Brown (2019)  
Carole H. Bullman (2019)  
Giavonna A. Caserta (2019)  
  
Joanne Cassidy (2013)  
Sean Patrick Cavanaugh (2018)  
  
Ja'Shae R. Chambers (2018)  
Samuel Alexander Dickens (2018)*

*Arianna Frieze (2017)  
John Hickman (2002)  
Melissa Hunt-LeGrand (2002)  
Emily A. McKenna (2019)  
  
Linda Pease (1999)  
Heather Pflieger (1999)  
  
Samantha Paige Penot (2018)  
Jebbeh Sambola (2019)*

*Zeynub Shaikh (2019)  
Divina Silverio (2019)  
Andrea Sivagnanam (2012)  
Kevin LeFenus Thompson, Jr.  
(2019)  
Brittany Weaver (2018)  
Anthony Michael Wiedman  
(2018)  
Teyahnah A. Williams (2019)*

### HONORARY MEMBERS

*Annamarie Cassidy (2018)  
Rachelle Chaykin (2013)  
Kamira A. Evans (2019)*

*Jayne B. Garrison (1993)  
H. Matthew Meyers (2022)  
William B. Robinson (2018)*

*Robyn D. Tarpley (2019)  
Kelly W. Thompson (2022)  
Jeanne Whitehead (2018)*

# Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

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*Director of Health and Medical Services ..... Robyn D. Tarpley, MS*  
*Director of Cannabis Studies ..... Lou Giannotti, RPH*  
*Director of Diagnostic Medical Sonography ..... Denise Boyle, MS, RDMS*  
*Director of Physical Therapist Assistant ..... Kelly W. Thompson,MS,PTA,ATC*  
*Director of the Library .....Patrick Lyons, MLS, MSIS*

# Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

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<i>Elizabeth Castelli-Bryant</i>	<i>Patrick Lyons</i>	<i>Geralyn Swindell</i>
<i>Rachelle Chaykin</i>	<i>Stephen Miller</i>	<i>Robyn Tarpley</i>
<i>Corey Dennis</i>	<i>Deb Portone</i>	<i>Kelly W. Thompson</i>
<i>Lou Giannotti</i>	<i>Kathleen Prendergast</i>	<i>Scott Voshell</i>
	<i>Laurie Rohrman</i>	

## PART-TIME FACULTY

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<i>Christine Bagley</i>	<i>Jane Galli</i>	<i>JoEllen Seufert</i>
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<i>Karen Brogan</i>	<i>Andrea Jano</i>	<i>Deborah Smithey</i>
<i>Jennifer Casey</i>	<i>Megan Jones</i>	<i>Larissa Smollar</i>
<i>Rosemary Castillo</i>	<i>Paige Kauffman</i>	<i>Tayla Stakemen</i>
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<i>Christina Chattin</i>	<i>Donna Mazur</i>	<i>Anne Marie Sullivan</i>
<i>Jan Cohen</i>	<i>Juli Miller</i>	<i>Jena Thompson</i>
<i>Annamaria Concannon</i>	<i>Katie Mitros</i>	<i>Marissa Varanelli</i>
<i>Tom Concannon</i>	<i>Michelle Moleski</i>	<i>Heather Walter</i>
<i>Jessica Crawley-Rich</i>	<i>Nancy Morgan</i>	<i>Jeanne Whitehead</i>
<i>Diana DiPretoro</i>	<i>Linda Pease</i>	<i>Mark Whitehead</i>
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<i>Brian Eckman</i>	<i>Deb Schneider</i>	<i>Shirley Wolhar</i>
<i>Laura Fanelli</i>		<i>Geoff Woodland</i>



## Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

*Pennsylvania Institute of Technology's Mission is to empower students to achieve success by offering a personalized approach to learning that promotes career advancement, transfer opportunities, and individual growth. By fostering an inclusive environment, P.I.T. encourages, supports, and celebrates diversity.*

*The Pennsylvania Institute of Technology (P.I.T.) faculty and staff recognize that the primary objective of education is the comprehensive development of the whole student effectively paired with quality in relevant, up-to-date program offerings and excitingly presented course work. All P.I.T. faculty members have as their first priority the success of the student through the creation and maintenance of an atmosphere conducive to stimulating the learning process. Our aim is to assist students in achieving their educational, career and social goals.*

*P.I.T. offers four-year bachelor degree, two-year associate degree and certificate programs. The College offers programs of study in Cannabis Business, Cannabis Health Therapy, Medical Cannabis Horticulture, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, General Studies, Health Care Management, Health Science, Medical Assisting, Physical Therapist Assistant, Pre-Nursing and Nursing, and Psychology and Behavioral Health. P.I.T., a not-for-profit college, prepares students of all ages for careers in their chosen fields and/or to transfer to four-year colleges or universities. The campus is located at 800 Manchester Avenue, Media, PA 19063.*

*The Pennsylvania Institute of Technology is accredited by The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), 1007 North Orange Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, MB #166, Wilmington, DE 19801. MSCHE is an institution accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.*