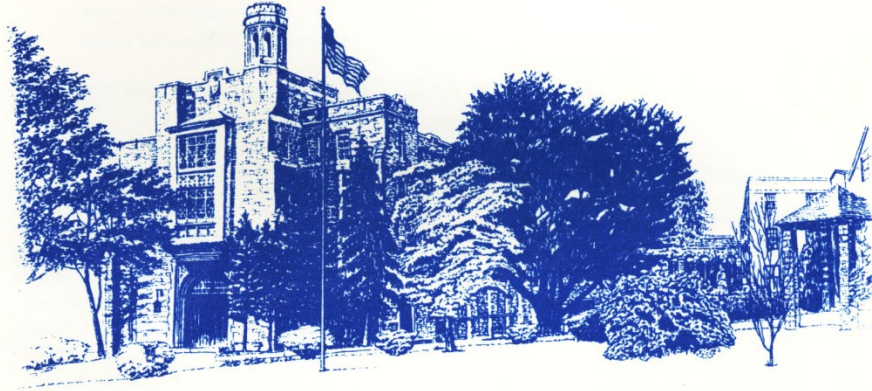


Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

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 Sixth

Two Thousand Twenty-Three

70TH

ANNIVERSARY
1953-2023

Pennsylvania Institute of Technology
Commencement Ceremony
ORDER OF EXERCISES

Processional*Pomp and Circumstance

Star Spangled Banner*

Welcome.....Kamira A. Evans, MPA
Chief of Staff and Student Engagement

Introduction of President.....Heather Pflieger, EdD
Dean of Academic Affairs

President’s Address..... H. Matthew Meyers, BA, MBA
President

Introduction of Commencement Speaker.....H. Matthew Meyers

Commencement Address.....Dr. Monica Taylor
Council Chair
Delaware County Council

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

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

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

Valedictorian’s Speech..... Jared E. Bittner

Biography and Introduction of Award Nominees.....Rachelle Chaykin, MA
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

The Salutatorian Award is presented to the graduate with the
second highest cumulative grade point average.

Salutatorian’s Speech.....Andrea Harkness

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

President’s Award.....Stephanie Roman

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.

Founder’s Award..... Kiana M. Cole-Johnson

*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.....Denise Shaquita Crenshaw
Florence Nightingale Award.....Curtis Handy

Program of Study Awards..... Heather Pflieger

Cannabis Horticulture Award
to Jared E. Bittner

Clinical Medical Assistant Award
to Latasca Loper

Psychology and Behavioral Health Award
to Juanita Louise Brown

Practical Nursing Award
to Radia Abdus Sabur

Clinical Medical Assistant Certificate Program Graduates.....Robyn D. Tarpley, MS
Director of Health and Medical Services

Associate Degree Graduates..... Program Managers

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

DEGREE CONFERRAL AND CLOSING

Presentation of Candidates for Certificates and Degrees.....Heather Pflieger
Farewell to Graduates..... H. Matthew Meyers
Conclusion..... Kamira A. Evans
Recessional..... Stars and Stripes Forever

Please remain in place until the Academic Procession leaves.

2023 Graduating Class
ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
ALLIED HEALTH-CLINICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Tamara Bailey*

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
ALLIED HEALTH-PRACTICAL NURSING
Shakira Brown
Crystal M Kouba
Lashai Hamlin-Fuentes*
Mars Sirleaf

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Juanita Louise Brown*

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
CANNABIS BUSINESS
Danielle Corsey*
Kelsey Heinonen (MH)*
Presley F. Huish (CH)*
Samuel L. Isaacs (SH)*
William Lear (MH)*

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
CANNABIS HEALTH THERAPY
Cheryl Snyder (MH)*

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
CANNABIS HORTICULTURE
Jared E. Bittner (SH)*
Nicholas S. DePrinzio (MH)*
Brett Halley (MH)*
David C. Henson (SH)*
Maurice A. Miller
Kaitlyn Thomas (MH)*

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
HEALTH SCIENCE
Imani Pernsley (CH)
Rija Philip

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.

**CERTIFICATE
PRACTICAL NURSING**

Radia Abdus Sabur (MH)
Shanell Alexander
Timiah J. Beachum
Sybrenia R. Birch
Tarez Bishop
Tykia Bookard
Kaila Brock
Brittany Annette Brown
Shakira Brown
Danaeja Buchanan
Patrice Cameron
Ashley E. Cherry
La Toyia Ann Chisholm (CH)
Kiana M. Cole-Johnson
Denise Shaquita Crenshaw (CH)
Isata Iye Daramy
Shaneika N. Dungee (MH)
Jazzlyn K. Flowers (MH)
LeAngel Nadira Gaffney
Aaliyah Gatling
Siata Gbane
Briyana Glass
Miatta S. Gobah
Lenora Z. Hairston
Curtis Handy
Andrea Harkness (SH)
Murphine Lakpayee Harmon
Kaneisha M. Harris
Dejuene Height
Jennifer Holder (CH)
Shynika Jackson
Tareneka Jackson
Zipporah Jacobs
Sasha M. Jeffrey
Leika Jocelyn
Jayona Johnson
Kiara Johnson
Monique S. Keys
LaFonia Kinlaw (CH)

Josh D. Lewis
Tiara Lighty (SH)

Tara Lum
Jada M. Medley
Makula Y. Molley
Tanaea Monroe
Shayla A. Montgomery
Tiona Neal
Temitope Olanrewaju (CH)
Schmyer Overton-Dancy
Keisha Pascall (CH)
Gifty Paye
Sakir Permenter-Hines
Jessica Reagan
Shawna A. Rogers (CH)
Stephanie Roman (SH)
Faith Sarnor
Geann Susan Seepaul(MH)
Guany N. Serrano
Daaiyah M. Shaw
Erica Shirley-Howard
Mars Sirleaf
Jonaysha Stanford
Victoria Starkey
Christina Staten
LaTashia R. Sykes (CH)
Belinda Taylor
Linda Michele Toal
Destiny-Arnese Ruth Walker
Synquissity Washington
Ashley N. Williams
Jantel Williams(CH)
Ashley Rose Wright
Dashina Daneen Wright
Lesia S. Young
Christine G. Zizivily (MH)
Fanta Kromah Zokai

CAREER CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Gloria M. Curry
Latoia A. Gordon
Alicia N. Himmons*

Latasca Loper (CH)*
Rahnayah McBride*
Mony Samaun*

NOTE:

*= Potential Graduate

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AWARD WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

Jared E. Bittner **Valedictorian**

Born in Philadelphia, Jared Bittner grew up in Voorhees, New Jersey. Prior to returning to school, Jared was a court reporter for over ten years. It was a good career, but he realized he lacked a sense of fulfillment. His love of horticulture led him to investigate a completely different industry. Jared's firm conviction in the future is the convergence of agriculture and technology generally, but he really wanted the ability to help others. Cannabis doesn't just relieve pain and reduce inflammation; powerful therapeutics have yet to be uncovered, and this is the future of cannabidiol and THC.

After figuring out what he'd like to study, he heard about the cannabis program at P.I.T., and there was never a question that this was where he'd start his journey. He wants to thank his incredibly supportive girlfriend and his entire family for being there for him throughout this experience. Without them, it wouldn't have been possible for Jared to return to school when he was close to being 30. He plans to earn a bachelor's in plant science, specializing in cannabis. His goal is to research CBD and THC for the rest of his career, and he aspires to start his own tissue culture facility one day, testing, storing, and working with cannabis genetics.

Andrea Harkness **Salutatorian**

Andrea is a long-time resident of West Chester, and a friend who had recently finished school recommended that she visit P.I.T. to learn more about the nursing program. It was a perfect match. Andrea is grateful to her family for being her greatest support system. Her next goal is to further her education to become a registered nurse.

Since she graduated, she has become a Licensed Practical Nurse and is currently working at Crozer Chester Medical Center.

When not working, Andrea can be found listening to audiobooks, walking her dog, and enjoying time with her children and grandchildren.

AWARD WINNING BIOGRAPHIES

Stephanie Roman President's Award

Stephanie Roman is a native of Philadelphia, PA, and along with her husband, has a full house, raising five amazing boys. Their love and support, serious time management skills, and patience have allowed Stephanie to complete her education and achieve her dreams. Most importantly, Stephanie's mother is the woman who inspired her to become a nurse. Her mom has worked in the healthcare industry for Stephanie's entire life.

A little over a year ago, Stephanie decided to continue her education in nursing. She had worked in healthcare for the past 13 years, and the time was finally right to start school. While working at other facilities, she met many nurses who spoke highly of P.I.T., and after some research, she enrolled in classes soon after.

After Stephanie finished her classes and passed her NCLEX exam, she was promoted from CNA to Charge Nurse at Bryn Mawr Extended Care Center. While her proudest achievement is her five boys, she is honored and proud to have been selected for P.I.T.'s 2023 President's Award.

Kiana M. Cole-Johnson Founder's Award

Kiana became a nurse to become a part of the healing process of others, as well as to have a flexible career that allows her to have time for her family. She grew up in North Philadelphia and became pregnant in nursing school, and attended class up until her son was born in October 2021. She had an emergency C-section with her son, and he went to Nemours in Delaware for surgery for ilial atresia. Through all of this, Kiana attended classes while her son was in the NICU. Her grandparents, her mother, and her Aunt Selena, were incredibly helpful during nursing school, providing childcare while she attended classes as well as offering financial help.

She overcame every obstacle she encountered, and she never gave up, no matter how challenging the situation. She currently works at Aveanna Health Care in pediatric nursing. Kiana's two biggest goals are to buy a home by the age of 25 and open a medical spa. Kiana's belief system is based on the idea that life isn't about finding yourself; it's about creating who you want to be. She chose her path and is forever grateful for the opportunity P.I.T. gave her. Now she is part of one of the most respected professions in the world. Thank you!

AWARD WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

Denise Shaquita Crenshaw Practical Nurse's Clinical Award

Denise enrolled at P.I.T. a few years ago and was ready to start school, but the universe decided it was not the right time. She always knew she wanted to be a nurse. While working as a C.N.A., Denise had conversations with work colleagues, who recommended that she return to school. She attended DCCC and completed some prerequisites with the mindset of becoming a nurse. Then Covid19 happened while Denise was taking her A&P class; between the stress, and an intense work schedule, she was not successful. She felt like she was wasting time, so she reapplied to P.I.T. and found her future.

It was the best choice she made for herself and her family. While she didn't know how it would turn out, she knew she was determined to earn a nursing degree. She couldn't have done it alone with five children at home and still having to work. She could only attend classes or get to clinicals on time because of her husband. She appreciates him so much; the support was always there for her since day one, and it wasn't easy, but he got it done. He is still holding it down as Denise completes her orientation at Crozer Chester Hospital as a Geriatric Psych Nurse. She has to be there so early that it's like going to school again. She has also accepted a PRN position at St. Edmonds Home for Children, where she aims to become a pediatric nurse. Denise plans to further her education to earn her B.S.N. It won't be easy, but she is determined to achieve her goals no matter how long it takes.

Curtis Handy Florence Nightingale Award

Curtis Handy is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and works as a skilled pediatric nurse at Bayada Home Care. He began his nursing school journey after caring for his great-grandmother. His healthcare philosophy comes from this experience, caring for his clients with the same compassion and consideration he used when caring for his great-grandmother. Curtis' nursing school journey started at P.I.T. It was not easy, but he persisted. With the support of his professors, coaches, family, and friends, Curtis was able to turn his dream into reality. His next goal is to return to school to become a registered nurse and work on the PICU Unit. Wherever he goes in his career, he will go into it comfortable in his education and confident in his knowledge because of P.I.T.

Radia Abdus Sabur
Practical Nursing Award

Radia is a Philadelphian, a wife, and a mother to three, one of whom has complex medical needs. She comes from a family of nurses, and caring for her son motivated her to pursue a lifelong goal of entering a nursing program.

Earning her place on the Dean's List every term and passing the NCLEX on the first attempt would not have been possible without God and the love and support of her husband, Laith, and her daughter. She is grateful for their support late at night and early morning. She would also like to thank her mother, her first role model in the nursing world, and her father, who showed what belief, hard work, humbleness, and success looks like.

Currently, Radia is an LPN Charge nurse at Bryn Mawr Extended Care Center, and she is looking forward to continuing her education by entering an RN program. Her mother, who has worked as a nurse for over 20 years, told her, *"As a nurse, you must care. If you do not care, you can be a nurse, but you won't be a nurse"*. As nurses, we must pour love into all we do, and Radia plans to do just that. Radia is honored to receive this honor.

Psychology and Behavioral Health Award
Juanita Louise Brown

When Juanita gave birth to her son Emilio Juan in 2020, she knew it was time to get serious and focus on returning to school. Juanita picked Pennsylvania Institute of Technology because it is very family and work friendly. When she started school, she worked full-time and juggled being a single mother. It was often overwhelming, but Juanita's thanks go to God and her mother, Louise, who played an enormous part in her success. Many times she kept her grandson busy so that Juanita could focus on studying for exams. Thank you again, Mom! Juanita plans to attend Millersville University to earn her BS in Social Work and later intends to study for her MS. Her son is her motivation. He fuels the fire in her soul to create a better world for him and all children.

Clinical Medical Assistant Award
Latasca Loper

Latasca Loper is from Wilmington, DE, and she started her career as an Early Childhood Teacher before switching to the medical field. Changing to Medical Assisting meant that she attended school full-time, worked part-time, and was a mom and wife in her spare time. Currently working for Elwyn in PA, she works with adults with disabilities in their homes. Latasca realized that she loves being able to work directly with individuals making a difference every day. Latasca would like to recognize the support of her family, especially her husband and two daughters, who shared this journey. Her new goal is to find a rewarding position in an Oncology office providing positive support to as many people as possible.

Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

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Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

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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), 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. MSCHE is an institution accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.