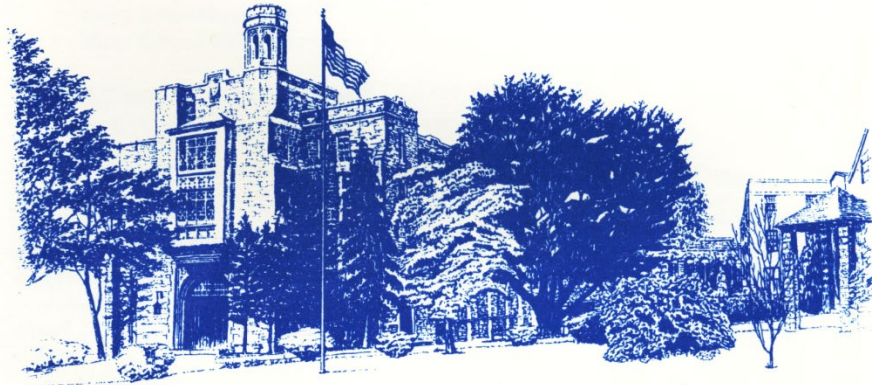


Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

The College that Empowers Student Success



Seventieth Annual Commencement Exercises Honors and Awards

At the

Pennsylvania Institute of Technology Theater
At

1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September Twenty Ninth

Two Thousand Twenty Two

70TH

ANNIVERSARY
1953-2022

Pennsylvania Institute of Technology
Commencement Ceremony
ORDER OF EXERCISES

Processional*Pomp and Circumstance

Star Spangled Banner*

Welcome.....Kamira A. Evans, MPA
Director of Student Affairs

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

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

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

Commencement Address.....

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Biography and Introduction of Valedictorians.....Heather Pflieger

The Valedictorian Awards are presented to the graduates with the highest cumulative grade point average.

Co-Valedictorian’s Speech.....Danielle Bormonaite

Co-Valedictorian’s Speech.....Ranae Jenise Gibbs

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

President’s Award.....Aleesha Jacobson

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.....Tiffany Gumba

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, Pledge of Allegiance, and Star Spangled Banner. Men please remove your hats during the Star Spangled Banner.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS (Continued)

Practical Nurse’s Clinical Award.....Aja A. Smith

Florence Nightingale Award.....Jami Carmenlita Gardner

Program of Study Awards.....Heather Pflieger

Cannabis Horticulture Award
to Kevin Jimenez

Clinical Medical Assistant Award
to Deannah L. Warren

Psychology and Human Services Award
to Kristen Ruggieri

Practical Nursing Award
to Toya Baxter

Physical Therapy Assistant Award
to Kathryn N. Reynolds

School of Professional Programs 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.

2022 Graduating Class

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE ALLIED HEALTH-PRACTICAL NURSING

Lynae Nicole Andrews	Sade Lewis
Janeth Bastida	Jaren Lockett (CH)
Shakira Brown	Jada Medley
Andre Paul Campbell	Angela McBride
Ileana Alexandra Cortez (CH)	Briah T. McCants (CH)
Lanae Niara Cuffee (MH)	Shai Miles (MH)
Prudence W. Dennis (CH)	David Moiyallah
Anita K. Dickerson Davis (CH)	
Patience L. H. Elliott	Crystal Ortiz
Marlayna Groat	Gifty Paye
Lashai Hamlin-Fuentes	Shanice Pitts
Teresa Hanto	Kathryn Pringle
Chanae Henson	Tiffany Releford
Taylor Hilton	Eric Shorrow
Carlene A. Holgate (CH)	Helen Nicole Smith
Tuhrae Janeen Hutson (MH)	Lovieta J. Tanksley
Aleesha Jacobson	Belinda Deneen Christine Taylor
Cyrus Johnson	Glory Tesema
Kishawna Jones	KaRhonda Tillery (MH)
Mandeep Kaur (MH)	Jannave C. Verdier
Pandeep Kaur (CH)	Jesse Victor (CH)
Rajandeep Kaur	Krystal J. Vincent
Amy Kemp	Tamboura Ward (CH)
Katherine Lanzo	Charlene Williams
Patricia Larose	Amber Wood

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE CANNABIS HEALTH THERAPY

Marcea K. Morales

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE CANNABIS HORTICULTURE

Benjamin D. Aldridge
David Anderson(CH)
Kevin Jimenez (MH)
Tomorrow Monroe (MH)
Pegguy Myrtil (CH)
Taniyah Watkins

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
Steven Pagliaro

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY**

Paige Kauffman

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

Latoya K. Green
Alyssa Erin Haines (MH)
Aaron Hampton
Chua Khang
Jennifer Mazzoni (MH)
Sean Mingey (CH)
Cristian Naranjo (CH)
Sasha Renee Nicholson
Kathryn N. Reynolds (SH)
Ayesha Reddick
Joey Sam
Sabrina Smith
Danielle M. Snape (MH)
Desiree Stewart (CH)
Jadea Taylor
Winifred Wetherall (CH)

PSYCHOLOGY AND HUMAN SERVICES

Shantae Ann Shelia Byer (CH)
Kristen Ruggieri (MH)

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

Brittani C. Aikens (CH)
Abosede Omotokune Alfred
Lynae Nicole Andrews
Destiny Austin
Shayana Ballard
Toya Baxter (SH)
Tyesha Bethea
Mariam Oluwakemi Bello (CH)
Tarez Bishop
Felicia Blue (CH)
Danielle Bormonaite (SH)
Janice Boyer
Robin M. Brown
Brittany Brown-Dennison (CH)
D'mani Cain (CH)
Arieal Chappell
Tiara Choates
Nudaye Clark
Casey Cook
Cassie Crew (SH)

**SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS
CAREER CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANT**

Nikia Hooks
Karen L. Olson
Deannah L. Warren
Taniyah Watkins

NOTE:

(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.

AWARD WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

Ranae Jenise Gibbs Co-Valedictorian

Growing up, my grandmother was always my inspiration because she was strong and independent. She was also always the first person to help someone in need. She looked out for everyone else, and I always wanted to do that. I always had a passion for being there for others and making others feel better, so as an adult, I held many positions in the medical field. Each of my jobs in the medical field was rewarding, but I knew nursing was where I should be. After the birth of my son, I promised myself no more excuses and pursued that dream. My journey at PIT was far from easy, especially with COVID, caring for my son, and the passing of some of the most influential women in my life. There were days I wanted to give up, but I did not. I could not have graduated without the support of my family, friends, and classmates.

Founder's Award Tiffany Gumba

"Sometimes it snows as late as May, but summer always comes eventually." Eleanor Longden, a diagnosed schizophrenic, said this quote during her TED talk, "The Voices in My Head." It took her ten years to achieve her M.S. in Psychology. However, she used her mental illness to her advantage. Mental illness can be debilitating, or it can be your most extraordinary power. Eleanor inspired me to rewire my struggles with bipolar disorder to fuel my drive. My ultimate goal is to obtain my B.S. in Neuroscience. The journey to achieving this aspiration has changed over the last six years, but it led me to my first step, procuring my LPN certification. Nursing is both a science and an art. Science provides evidence-based practice for the understanding and approach to illness. At the same time, the art offers caring, communication, and compassion necessary to connect with patients in an impactful way. Nursing is my purpose, and I will succeed at it!

AWARD WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

Practical Nurses's Clinical Award

Aja A. Smith

Growing up, I always wanted to be a pediatrician. It has been my dream job since I was ten years old. I started nursing school in September of 2009 and wasn't interested then. I wanted to have fun right out of high school. Then the opportunity finally came around again, and I decided to start classes to become an LPN. I want to continue my education in the nursing field and be a BSN RN by 2025, and I plan to begin that journey soon. I love helping people improve and regain their independence. I'm incredibly passionate about nursing.

Florence Nightingale Award

Jami Carmenlita Gardner

My inspiration growing up would be my mother, Minnie Lisa Gardner, who passed when I was seven years old. From an early age, I learned that the groundwork she laid showed me what hard work and determination could manifest. I worked as a Correctional Officer for eight years when I chose a career change. I got the drive to enter nursing by observing and learning from my older sister Taliah, a nurse. For me, nursing school was no easy task. I worked a full-time job in addition to having a 9-year-old son. With the grace of God, my fiancée, family, my PIT classmates, and teachers that supported me, I worked hard and made it through! I plan to return to the correctional setting as a nurse and help those currently incarcerated.

Practical Nursing Award

Tonya Baxter

I want to thank God first for his many blessings and for allowing me to never give up on my dreams. I also want to thank my family and children, Javon, Tashon, Taneja, and my other half Matt for going through this journey with me and allowing me to focus on school and keeping my stress level low. I believe I am a caring and nurturing person by nature, but watching my mom go through so many different health issues led me to my nursing career. My most significant adjustment to school life was getting up early every day and constantly studying, but it was worth it. My plans after school are to successfully pass my NCLEX the first time and work in the mental health field. Within a year or so, I want to go back to school to earn my RN/BSN. My parents and my children are my inspiration. I always want to make them proud and inspire my children to do their best and never give up. Lastly, I would like to thank my professors for their help, which led to my success at P.I.T. I would also like to thank my study group girls, Professor Swindell, Professor Schwalbe, Professor Wolhar, Professor Kelly, Professor Smollar, and anyone I ever reached out to for help during my stressful school days. I hope to be a successful nurse one day.

Physical Therapy Assistant Award
Kathryn N. Reynolds

My family and friends are my greatest inspiration. Their endless support has given me the courage to discover a passion I never knew I had. The journey to become a physical therapist assistant has been the most fulfilling adventure yet, and I am delighted and excited to see where it takes me next.

Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

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Dean of Academic Affairs.....Heather Pflieger, EdD
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Director of Information Technology.....Michael P. Testa, Jr., AST

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Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.....Rachelle Chaykin, MA
Director of Nursing.....Corey Dennis, MSNc, BA,BSN,RN,CNEn
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
E-Learning and Digital Instruction Coordinator.....Jeffrey Cohen, MS

Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

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Roe Castillo	Kat Jones	James VanWright
Christina Chattin	Shirley Kelly	Scott Voshell
Rachelle Chaykin	Michelle Lewis	Jeanne C. Whitehead
Jan Cohen	Jenna MacNamara	Mark Whitehead
Maxwell Cohen	Juli Miller	Jane Whitney
Annamaria Concannon	Deb Portone	Susan Willoughby
Carla Costa	Linda Pease	Shirley Wolhar
Debra Crandell	Kathleen Prendergast	Geoffrey Woodland
Corey Dennis	Russell Reyes	



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.