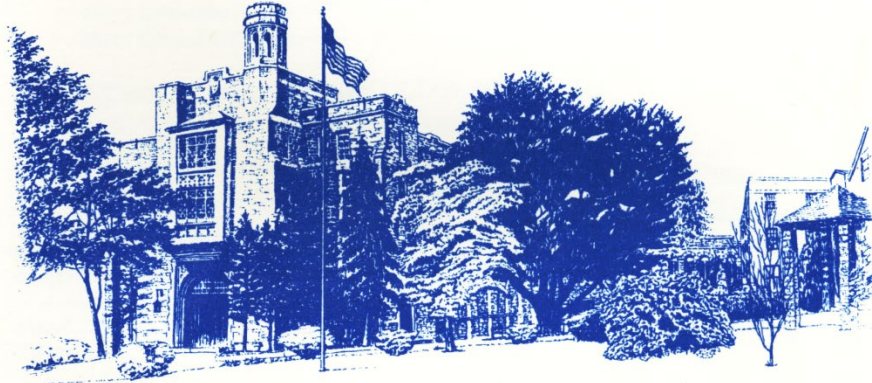


Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

The College that Empowers Student Success



Seventieth Annual Commencement Exercises Honors and Awards

Pennsylvania Institute of Technology Theater

2:30 p.m.

Thursday, September Twenty Eighth

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..... Gerilyn Swindell, BSN

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

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

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

Valedictorian’s Speech.....Ben F. Fisher

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

Salutatorian’s Speech.....Kirsten Blee

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

President’s Award.....Gemma Leonetti

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..... Monya Aviles

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..... Myesha S. White

Florence Nightingale Award.....T’anna DiLeo

Program of Study Awards..... Heather Pflieger

Cannabis Horticulture Award
to Holly J. Porter

Clinical Medical Assistant Award
to Mowuleh C. Ballah

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Award
to Paige Boyer

Health Care Management Award
to Jayda Davide

Physical Therapist Assistant Award
to Wendy Getman

Psychology and Behavioral Health Award
to Danielle M. Colella

Practical Nursing Award
to Nakiesha Beasley

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

Associate Degree Graduates..... Program Directors

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-PRACTICAL NURSING

Shanarah ElRoberts
Joyce M. Kirkley (MH)

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Darby L. Mintel

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE CANNABIS BUSINESS

Jessica Consuelo Vinasco

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE CANNABIS HEALTH THERAPY

Marcea Morales

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE CANNABIS HORTICULTURE

Kendria C. Clark (CH)
Eric Donnelly*
Ben F. Fisher (SH)
Andrew Marty (MH)
Holly J. Porter (SH)

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Yiheyis Mulugeta (SH)

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE COMPUTER SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

Kyle Sabin (MH)

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

Paige Boyer (CH)
Gabriella Iannacone (CH)
Gemma Leonetti
Heather Paskiewicz (CH)
Brianna Scott (SH)
Amal Zared (MH)

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.

**2023 Graduating Class
ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS**

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
GENERAL STUDIES**

Lutisha D. Miner

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT**

Jayda Davide
Megan McDaniel*
Laura Robinson*

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

Loi Anderson
Nira B. Blair
Kirsten Blee (SH)
Alexis Evans
Kristina Lynn Feeley
Wendy Getman* (SH)
Jade House
Bethany Lauren Janes
Jessica Joyce (MH)
Thomas D. Kalup (CH)
Alexander K. McLaughlin*

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
PSYCHOLOGY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Danielle M. Colella (CH)

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
PSYCHOLOGY AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Daryn Z. Jordan*

NOTE:

*= Potential Graduate

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**CERTIFICATE
PRACTICAL NURSING**

Demetria Anthony	Isata Z. Kanu
Adama Aruna	Joyce M. Kirkley (MH)
Monya Aviles	Mariam Princess Kpadeh
Fatmata wurie Bah	LaToya Tyheirra Laws
Nakiesha Beasley (SH)	Shekera Ellen Dorothy Lewis
Skylar Bennett	Sudea Shakia Tanika Mapp (MH)
Jermaine Brinkley	Nephtalie Mathurin
Latoya A. Bryant	Christine McCole (CH)
Matu C. Carmo	Matthew McGraw
Charlena Carnegie	Linda Meadows
Ty'Jae Siyani Carter	Famatta Z. Momo
Ebony Chambers	Michelle Murphy
Tameka Cooper	Kristal Murray
Rennie Davies	Sharon Ojudoh
Nakiesha Dickerson	Nina Osborne (CH)
T'anna DiLeo	Erica Pinckney
Maria Dorcelian Bauzier	Lloyd M. Price
Shanarah ElRoberts	Katrina Pryor
Deja M. Flowers	Candice L. Ray (CH)
India Fulton	Rasheeda Rivers
Frances F. Gbelia	Atassa Robinson
Falecia M. Graham	Alicia Sanchez
Lamica Michelle Haman (CH)	Nikisha Sargeant
Yahnise Harmon	Haja Dusu Sesay
Naquine Harris	Sharonda Lenee Simmons
Jennifer N. Hayes	ShaNay Stewart
Fatmata Lewis Jalloh	Lachelle P. Stokes
Denise T. Johnson	Nowah P. Tarniah
Megan M. Johnson	Cameron Thomas
Sharon E. Johnson	Cristina Nicole Thomas
Brittney S. Jones	Geegee F. Waitiehkabehl
Sire Kaba	Myesha S. White
Carrietta R. Kalokoh	Victoria Bleh Wilson
Hawa Emma Kamara	Kailah Yates

**CERTIFICATE
MEDICAL ASSISTANT**

Tatyana Asante Allen	Mayata J. Kamara
Mowuleh C. Ballah	Audray Mabiliah
Delaney F. Bell	Rahnayah N. McBride
Courtney L. Cooper	Taylor T. Smith*
Gloria Marie Curry (MH)	De' Ajah Walker
Arion K. Edwards	Jada Corrine Williams

NOTE:

*= Potential Graduate

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AWARD WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

Valedictorian Ben F. Fisher

Ben was born and raised in Paoli, PA to Jane and Matthew Fisher. His mother offered endless support, patience and guidance with every issue and endeavor he faced, always finding the best in any situation. His father always expected Ben to try his best, reasoning that putting in the work now is easier than looking back and wishing you had. Ben's love of the natural world inspired his interest in science, especially the discipline of genetics having seen great variation in the possibilities of natural ecosystems. After learning about cannabis and how certain genetic traits can produce specific palliative effects, Ben found a way to blend his love of nature and his fascination with genetics. Ben is currently attending Oregon State University which is why he can't be here in person. He is enrolled in the honors program finishing a bachelor degree in horticultural research. Next year, Ben will be taking part in an accelerated master's program. He found that once the freedom to study and pursue what he was truly passionate about education was no longer a chore and instead became a hobby. Ben hopes to pursue this excitement for learning with his career in horticultural research.

Salutatorian Kirsten Blee

Kirsten Blee, a native of the Delco area, has lived her life shaped by a commitment to family, a passion for helping others, and a relentless pursuit of personal growth. Kirsten's path toward a career in physical therapy was inspired by her cousin's involvement in a devastating car accident. Kirsten was by her side throughout the recovery process, and during this time, she discovered her calling to help others regain their physical well-being. While pursuing her education, Kirsten faced one of her most significant challenges – time management. Balancing the roles of a mother, spouse, student, and employee presented its fair share of hurdles. Yet, Kirsten's resilience and unwavering dedication to her goals allowed her to overcome these obstacles. Kirsten's journey would not have been possible without her support system: her fiancé, their two beautiful children, and her mother. Kirsten has always acknowledged the profound impact of her family and friends, who have been the unwavering support system throughout her life. They have been the calm during chaotic times, the shoulder to cry on, and the cheerleaders who provided a much-needed boost during challenging moments. Her aspirations after graduation include working with the pediatric and/or geriatric population.

President's Award Gemma Leonetti

Gemma Leonetti was born and raised in South Philadelphia and opted to pursue a career in Diagnostic Medical Sonography at PIT. She enjoys spending time with friends, family, and her boyfriend Salvatore. Her father always encouraged her to do well in school, telling her she could do anything she wanted in life with a good education. Gemma has always wanted to make him and her family proud. She dedicates this to them. She thanks her aunt Gianna for being the biggest inspiration and best influence in her life, giving her two cousins to love, and for everything she does. She gives her love to Janieann, Julian, and Louis. Always and forever.

Cannabis Horticulture Award Holly J. Porter

Holly Porter has lived in the Media area for 26 years with her husband Ken, where they raised their three daughters. Holly's husband and daughters were her biggest cheerleaders when she decided to embark on her degree over 30 years since graduating high school. Her family was her inspiration as they had all either completed their degrees and, in some cases, postgraduate degrees. Pursuing a degree as an adult was not without challenges. Despite the complexities of balancing the responsibilities as a wife, mom, caregiver to her mother and community member, she persevered. It's fascinating to think that her chosen field of cannabis studies wasn't even an option when she first considered college 30+ years ago. Her determination and unique path have certainly led her to a rewarding and pioneering educational experience.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Award Paige Boyer

Paige Boyer has always known that she was a caregiver; it came as a natural instinct. The hardships of life watching her single mother raise her little sister always lit a fire to strive for something more. Her mother often reminded her, "The second you believe in yourself, you will fly!". Paige would like to dedicate this award to her mother, Suzanne, whose support and love have always shown her the way. She would not be where she is today without her daily support, demonstrating how a strong and independent woman can be.

Anyone is possible of anything in this life!

Paige has accepted a full-time offer at a local hospital where she cannot wait to start her career and care for her patients as a diagnostic medical sonographer.

AWARD WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

Practical Nurse's Clinical Award

Myesha White

Myesha White was born and raised in Chester, Pennsylvania. She is the third of 6 children, with an addition of 4 “bonus” siblings. Her mother is Lesia (LEE-SHA) Young, a nurse and alumna of P.I.T., and her father is Lawrence Jackson, an entrepreneur who unhesitatingly accepted her as his own when she was just 3 months old. Myesha has 5 amazing children: Hameen (10), Ahmeena (9), Ah'Meen (8), Ha'Miya (4) and Ah'Nyila aka “Pooh-Baby”(1), whom she shares with their father, Ernest Clark. From the beginning, she clung to her passion for helping and caring for others, but her nursing journey was far from easy. From sleepless nights studying, early hectic mornings, and tears...she never gave up. By the end of each term, Myesha made the dean's list or academic honors every term. Her biggest inspiration growing up (and still today) is her mother, for her strength and determination. She would like to thank her family (especially the father of her children), friends, and professors for all their support and guidance. Furthermore, she would like to dedicate this award to her children for their patience and grace through it all. She plans to continue her journey and become a Registered Nurse. Myesha is full of gratitude and honored to be the selected recipient of the Practical Nurse's Clinician Award. She thanks you all!

Florence T'anna DiLeo

Nightingale Award

T'anna was born and raised in Philadelphia with her mom, dad, sister, and brother. Her inspiration growing up has always been her mother. Not just because she is also a nurse, but because she is the true meaning of an amazing woman. From a young age, she instilled in all of her children to be strong and independent. T'anna was always in and out of the hospital growing up, and the nurses there made her feel safe and cared for. She knew that she wanted to grow up and help others feel safe. The greatest adjustment for her during her time at P.I.T has been managing rigorous coursework, but with dedication and a few of her classmates, she managed to consistently make honors. T'anna passed her NCLEX just 12 days after completing the program and is now living her nursing dreams working in pediatrics.

Practical Nursing Award

Nakiesha Beasley

Nakiesha Beasley was born and raised in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania with her brother and two sisters. Life wasn't perfect but she and her family never went without. After graduating high school, Nakiesha attended Delaware State University where she originally wanted to apply to their nursing program but was too intimidated, so she chose the public health program. Unfortunately, while at university, Nakiesha's mother experienced life-threatening health issues which required surgery on her heart. While being in the hospital and recovering from the operation, her mom experienced nurses being rude and dismissive of her concerns and that drove Nakiesha to put her fears aside and give nursing a try to truly make a difference in people's lives. Nakiesha states that attending PIT was one of the best decisions she ever made and not only completed the program, but excelled by finishing with 3.94 GPA, and passing the NCLEX on the first attempt. Not only making her mother proud but can now pursue her dreams by positively impacting the lives of others. Her family and the grace of God are the reason she made it this far now plans on continuing her education at DCCC.

Physical Therapist Assistant Award

Wendy Getman

Wendy Getman is native to Northern New York and now lives in Silver Spring, Maryland with her Wife and two dogs, Sawyer and Finn. After graduating from SUNY ESF with an Environmental Science degree, Wendy joined the Coast Guard and spent 10 years doing Environmental Compliance. Wendy has always been active, playing college soccer to now playing recreational soccer and ice hockey. She also enjoys running, lifting, and hiking. Her love for being active is what drew her to the PTA program. She wanted to have a job where she would be able to help people live an active lifestyle.

Psychology and Behavioral Health Award

Danielle M. Colella

Born in Drexel Hill, PA, Danielle Colella received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from West Chester University. Months before graduating from West Chester, she decided to return to P.I.T. to pursue a degree in psychology. Danielle strives to always have a positive effect on people's lives by helping them through difficult times. Her dream is to one day work with survivors of crimes in a victim's unit. School never came easy for Danielle but with the support of her family, she was able to overcome her challenges. Her aunt Ammi is the woman who taught her to have the courage to be herself and to never give up. Danielle wants to thank her family and friends for their endless love and support, especially her mom, Joanne, who is her biggest role model, her sister Lexi who is the strongest woman she knows, her brother Anthony who taught her to be strong, and her dad Stephen who is her inspiration. She also wants to acknowledge her teachers and advisors who helped along the way and encouraged her to keep going.

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

2023 INDUCTEES

Paige Boyer (2023)	Gabriella Iannacone (2023)	Holly J. Porter (2023)
Laura Brady (2023)	Gemma Leonetti (2023)	Candice L. Ray (2023)
Rhakeisha D. Brooker (2023)	Bianca Malaret (2023)	Brianna Scott (2023)
Jayda Davide (2023)	Christine McCole (2023)	Andrew R. Thomas (2023)
Kyla Davis (2023)	Heather Paskiewicz (2023)	

CHAPTER ADVISOR

Elizabeth Castelli-Bryant

SENIOR MEMBERS

Dominique Jessica Brower(2019)	Arianna Frieze (2017)	Zeynub Shaikh (2019)
Terrence Jerome Brown (2019)	John Hickman (2002)	Divina Silverio (2019)
Carole H. Bullman (2019)	Melissa Hunt-LeGrand (2002)	Andrea Sivagnanam (2012)
Giavonna A. Caserta (2019)	Emily A. McKenna (2019)	Kevin LeFenus Thompson, Jr. (2019)
Joanne Cassidy (2013)	Linda Pease (1999)	Brittany Weaver (2018)
Sean Patrick Cavanaugh (2018)	Heather Pflieger (1999)	Anthony Michael Wiedman (2018)
Ja'Shae R. Chambers (2018)	Samantha Paige Penot (2018)	Teyahnah A. Williams (2019)
Samuel Alexander Dickens (2018)	Jebbeh Sambola (2019)	Amal Zared (2022)

HONORARY MEMBERS

Annamarie Cassidy (2018)	Jayne B. Garrison (1993)	Robyn D. Tarpley (2019)
Rachelle Chaykin (2013)	H. Matthew Meyers (2022)	Kelly W. Thompson (2022)
Kamira A. Evans (2019)	William B. Robinson (2018)	Jeanne Whitehead(2018)

Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

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Dean of Academic Affairs.....Heather Pflieger, EdD
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.....Rachelle Chaykin, MA
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Chief of Staff and Student Engagement.....Kamira A. Evans, MPA
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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
Director of the Library.....Patrick Lyons, MLS, MSIS

Pennsylvania Institute of Technology

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Denise Boyle	Francine Hepler	Donna Rust
Elizabeth Castelli-Bryant	Stephen Miller	Geralyn Swindell
Rachelle Chaykin	Deb Portone	Robyn Tarpley
Corey Dennis	Kathleen Prendergast	Kelly W. Thompson
Lou Giannotti	Laurie Rohrman	

PART-TIME FACULTY

Michael Alexander	Stephanie Founds	JoEllen Seufert
Christine Bagley	Nena Hatchett	Megan Shockley
Charlene Baker	Lisa Golger	Alison Singson
Ronald Barrett	Edward Isselmann	Chris Slabek
Grayson Boehne	April Johnson-Randall	Deborah Smithey
Jennifer Casey	Megan Jones	Larissa Smollar
Rosemary Castillo	Shirley Kelly	Maggie Strang
Susan Chan Peter	Jenna MacNamara	Anne Marie Sullivan
Christina Chattin	Donna Mazur	Scott Voshell
Jan Cohen	Regina McWhite-King	Jeanne C. Whitehead
Annamaria Concannon	Juli Miller	Mark Whitehead
Tom Concannon	Michelle Moleski	Jane Whitney
Diana DiPretoro	Nancy Morgan	Michele Williams
Barbara DiSipio	Linda Pease	Susan Willoughby
Morganne Dougherty	Marie Ruoff	Shirley Wolhar
Brian Eckman	Marianne Schwalbe	Geoffrey Woodland
Laura Fanelli	Debra Schneider	



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.