

2023

Fall Commencement Convocation



Friday, December 15, 2023
Ten O'clock A.M.

Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center
Orangeburg, South Carolina

The Seal and Mace

The University Seal is comprised of the following carefully sculptured symbols: a Palmetto Tree, a miniature building and a torch. The Palmetto Tree stands in the center of the Seal and represents the official tree of South Carolina. At the base of the tree, on the left, is a miniature of Morrill Hall symbolizing education and history. Morrill Hall, one of the first buildings constructed on the campus, was named in recognition of the Morrill Act which established land-grant colleges in the United States. South Carolina State University is a member of the land-grant system. On the right side of the tree is a torch which connotes a deep devotion to truth: "Scientia, Officium, Honos," meaning Knowledge, Duty, Honor. The Seal is used on all official documents of the University. The Seal was designed for the inauguration of Dr. M. Maceo Nance, Jr. as fifth president of South Carolina State University in 1968 by Dr. Leo F. Twiggs, Professor of Art at the institution.

The mace has an ancient history as a symbol of authority. During the 13th century, it was used for civil purposes and during the processions of royalty and other dignitaries.

The mace symbolizes the autonomy and authority of the University, the Board of Trustees, the administration, and the faculty to grant degrees to graduates and represents one of the oldest traditions in academia. The University Mace was designed by Dr. Clarence W. Hill, School of Engineering Technology and Sciences, during the fall semester of 2003. The Mace is carried before the president and other dignitaries of the platform party during commencement and other formal processions.

The University Mace was commissioned by Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. and presented during his inaugural ceremony as the ninth president of South Carolina State University. Dr. Hugine's vision for the design of the Mace included "full capture of the strength of the University, as evidenced in its history." He envisioned the Mace representing "the significant growth, prosperity, and vitality for the future of the University." The Mace's design is reflective of and captures the rich history of the University while embracing the challenge to preserve its legacy as a land-grant institution.

A brass multi-ring base supports the 42" elegantly crafted walnut fluted staff with brass rings bearing the names of former University presidents. This ornate feature presents eight bronze engraved panels. Engraved on four of the eight panels are the three historic seals of the University and the seal of the state of South Carolina. On three of the remaining panels are the names of the University from beginning to present. One panel is blank to capture future developments. Two marble plates, one garnet and one blue, serve as the base and top plate for the uppermost part of the Mace. The pinnacle of the Mace is a sphere, having two faces: one face with Morrill Hall, one of the first buildings on the campus, and the second having the President's Seal, representing the University's leadership and global presence in higher education.



Commencement Convocation

Friday morning, the fifteenth of December
Two Thousand and Twenty-three
Ten O'clock a.m.
Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center
Orangeburg, South Carolina

Contents

The University/ The Symbols of Learning	4
President's Message	5
Program	6
Commencement Speaker	7
Candidates for Graduate Degrees	8
Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees	9
Honors Graduates	11
Dissertations	12
Chief Academic Administrators	13
Board of Trustees	14
President's Cabinet	14
Commencement Committee	14
Alumni Oath	14
Star-Spangled Banner	Inside Back Cover
Alma Mater	Inside Back Cover
Institutional Accreditation	Back Cover

The University

Since its founding in 1896, South Carolina State University has evolved from a small teachers' college into a major university center of learning. One of the most attractive campuses in the Southeast, the University is located in Orangeburg, South Carolina, which is centrally located between the capital city of Columbia and the beautiful seaport city of Charleston. South Carolina State University is one of two land-grant institutions in the Palmetto State. The University is state-assisted and draws its students from all over the United States and various other countries.

The approximately 3,000 students enrolled at the University have a choice of more than 50 different fields of study on the undergraduate and graduate levels, which include the following degree-granting academic divisions of the University: the College of Business and Information Systems; the College of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences; the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Transportation; and the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. The interdisciplinary Honors College is also a part of the Division of Academic Affairs. Across certain disciplines, the degree-granting colleges offer

programs at the master's, educational specialist, and doctoral levels as well as certificate programs. The University provides undergraduate and graduate courses through the Center of Online and Distance Education.

In support of its mission as a land-grant institution, South Carolina State University also administers the 1890 Research & Extension Program, which provides solutions and services to improve the quality of life of South Carolinians. The institution makes a special effort to contribute to the intellectual and cultural life of the community through numerous co-curricular offerings and special activities.

The main campus is comprised of 160 acres and more than 60 buildings, including the newest academic building, the 86,500-square-foot Engineering and Computer Science Complex, which features innovative classrooms, research centers and laboratories.

South Carolina State University supports 14 NCAA varsity sports, which have brought the institution more than 100 conference championships and 15 national titles.

The Symbols of Learning

The Academic Procession

The academic procession of today's commencement exercises is made up of candidates for degrees, members of the faculty, members of the Board of Trustees, and members of the platform party marching in that order. After the ceremony, the order of march is reversed except that graduates are dismissed at their seats.

The order of march is in accordance with academic protocol which was established centuries ago when academic ceremonies were predominantly directed by the clergy. In keeping with the familiar order of the religious procession, the younger and newer groups precede the older, and the place of highest honor is at the end of the procession.

Academic Attire

The academic attire worn at American college exercises today dates back in its essential features to the Middle Ages. The oldest universities of northern Europe, such as Paris and Oxford, grew out of church schools. Students and faculty wore clerical garb, largely borrowed from the monastic dress of their day.

The head-covering of the academic costume developed out of the skull cap worn by the clergy in cold weather. In the universities, this skull cap acquired a point on top which gradually evolved into a tassel. In this country, it has been replaced by the familiar mortar-board, which still retains the medieval tassel.

The hood was originally worn over the head, and otherwise dropped onto the shoulders, like a cowl. Today, each college or university has its distinctively colored hood-lining, by which its graduates may be recognized in academic processions.

The gown worn today seems to have been borrowed from the habit of the Benedictine monks. At medieval institutions of higher learning, undergraduate and graduate degree candidates could be distinguished by the simplicity or elaborateness of their gowns. The graduate degree candidates' gowns were often furred, a feature that survives today in the ornamentation found on doctoral gowns.

In keeping with long established traditions, graduates of South Carolina State University continue to wear black robes with an Oxford mortarboard cap and a black tassel. Baccalaureate students graduating with the distinctive honors of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude wear gold tassels, stoles, and honor cords, as appropriate. Candidates for the master's degrees wear color hoods designating their academic disciplines, and Doctor of Education candidates wear the light blue hood of their discipline, as well as fur-ornamented robes, which display three stripes on each sleeve.

The colors for academic disciplines, established by the American Council on Education, include white for arts, letters, and humanities; drab for business administration, commerce and accountancy; crimson for communication and journalism; copper for economics; light blue for education; orange for Engineering; brown for fine arts; purple for law; lemon for library science; green for medicine; pink for music; apricot for nursing; silver gray for oratory; dark blue for philosophy; sage green for physical education; peacock blue for public administration; golden yellow for science; citron for social science; and scarlet for theology and divinity.

Message From Col. Conyers



COL Ret. Alexander Conyers

To the Class of 2023:

Congratulations! Your journey as a college student at South Carolina State University has culminated with today's Commencement Ceremony. Your graduation is an indication that you are ready for your next phase in life. It is a time for you to reflect upon the last four years and how they have prepared you for a day such as this.

I want to personally commend you for a job well done. None of what you accomplished would have been possible without you taking the initial step to enroll in SC State University. The education and life lessons learned here will certainly guide you through the life you dreamed of for yourself. You are walking in the footprints of many Bulldogs who have gained great success, and now you are leaving your footprints for the those who come after you.

There is so much in the world yet to be discovered. There is so much in the world yet to be challenged. There is so much in the world yet to be mastered by an SC State alumnus. Therefore, your turn is now, your time is now. The education you received from the premier HBCU in South Carolina and beyond, has prepared you well. Your degree will take you places you never thought possible.

Go forth graduates, ***Onward and Upward.*** For those who fought to ensure that you had the opportunity at education, make them proud. Our forbearers, who fought for your education, are smiling upon you this day. Their hard work and your dedication have paid off. On behalf of the entire University family, we are proud of you and wish you well in future endeavors. Congratulations Class of 2023!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander Conyers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alexander Conyers
President

Commencement Convocation

The Program
Alexander Conyers, President
Presiding

PRELUDE..... Ms. Jiyeon Lee, Piano
ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL – War March of the Priests MendelssohnSCSU, Concert Band
Dr. Patrick Moore, Director

(Audience is requested to remain seated)

POSTING OF COLORS Bulldog Battalion Color Guard
STAR-SPANGLED BANNER – Francis Scott Key..... Audience
SCSU Concert Choir And Band

SCRIPTURE AND INVOCATION Reverend Charcey Priester
St. Paul Baptist Church, Orangeburg, SC

GREETINGS..... Mr. Douglas Gantt
Chairman, Board of Trustees

SELECTION – “Hold Fast to Dreams” arr. Roland Carter (b. 1942) Ms. Kristine Overman, Soprano
Ms. Jiyeon Lee, Piano

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER President Conyers

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Dr. Antoinette Rutherford
Pulmonary Physician, Director, Sleep Diagnostic Centers, PRISMA Health, Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine – USC

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

The Honorable Clifton B. Newman, Doctor of Laws Ms. Diane E. Sumpter, Doctor of Humane Letters
The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Jr., Doctor of Humane Letters The Honorable Kent M. Williams, Doctor of Humane Letters

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Col. (Ret.) Alexander Conyers
Dr. Frederick M. G. Evans, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dr. Lakeisa Tucker, Acting Dean, College of Graduate and Professional Studies
Dr. Matthew Guah, Dean, School of Business and Information Systems
Dr. M. Evelyn Fields, Dean, College of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences
Dr. Stanley Ihekweazu, Dean, College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Transportation
Dr. Ralph Noble, Dean, College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences

INDUCTION OF GRADUATES INTO THE

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Mr. Hank Allen, '78
President, South Carolina State University National Alumni Association

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND REMARKS President Conyers

ALMA MATER..... Audience
SCSU Concert Choir And Band
Dr. Patrick Moore, Director
(Inside back cover)

RETIRING OF COLORS Bulldog Battalion Color Guard

BENEDICTION Rev. Priester

RECESSIONAL - Pomp and Circumstance Edward Elgar SCSU Concert Choir And Band

Mace Bearer, Dr. Jagruti Sahoo, Professor of the Year
Grand Marshal, Dr. Frederick M. G. Evans, Provost

Commencement Speaker



Dr. Antoinette Rutherford, '97

*PULMONARY PHYSICIAN, DIRECTOR, SLEEP DIAGNOSTIC CENTERS,
PRISMA HEALTH, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, INTERNAL MEDICINE – USC*

Dr. Antoinette Williams Rutherford, a trailblazer in the medical field, embarked on her journey after graduating from Orangeburg Wilkerson High School in 1993. She earned her bachelor's degree from South Carolina State University in 1997 with honors, marking the beginning of her exceptional academic career. As the first South Carolina State University student to graduate from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia South Carolina, she secured her place as a groundbreaking achiever, completing the program with honors.

Her pursuit of excellence continued as she completed a residency in internal medicine at Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, SC. Seeking further specialization, she moved to Maryland, where she underwent a critical care fellowship at the prestigious National Institutes of Health. While in Baltimore Maryland she completed a pulmonary fellowship at University of Maryland. Subsequently, at the University of Maryland, she became the inaugural graduate of the sleep fellowship program, demonstrating her dedication to pioneering paths in her field.

Returning to her roots in South Carolina, Dr. Rutherford joined the faculty at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, where she currently serves as the Medical Director of Adult Sleep Medicine at Prisma Health Midlands. Additionally, she has taken on the role of Interim Division Chief of Pulmonary Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at Prisma Health. Her commitment to medicine and education is matched only by her dedication to family. Dr. Rutherford is the loving wife of Dr. Trace Rutherford, dentist in Columbia South Carolina and a devoted mother to two wonderful children, Madeline and Hamilton. Being a bulldog does run in the family as her mother Carolyn Willams is a graduate of South Carolina State University.

Her achievements, from being a groundbreaking graduate to her leadership roles in healthcare, define Dr. Antoinette Rutherford as a pioneering force and a compassionate professional in the medical community.

Candidates for Graduate Degrees

Doctor of Education

Ernest Wardell Cooper
Janet Y. Campbell +
Angela Dingle +
Demeturia L. Kelly
Fabien McGill
Felicia Collier Robinson
Dyisha Charlayne Taylor
Zakaria Watson
Rhonda Jivers Wiley +

Education Specialist

Ericka Mabry
Andrew Clark McMillan +
Danielle S. Garzon

Master of Arts Rehabilitation Counseling

Ebony M. Johnson
Devaunte Mckee
Marissa K. Neloms
Kathryn Rickenbaker

Master of Arts

Speech Pathology and Audiology

Gabrielle Jacinda Addison +
Tori Berry Shuler +
Laney Bogard +
Amarrah Cooks +
Rasheen La'Teal Hampton +
Rosa Dychelle Hill +
Emilie Martin +
Sade J. Moody +
Angela M. Moran +
Shannon Ridling +
Alycia Sansbury +
Bozaya D. Simon +
Latonya Stanley +
Vivica Stocker +
Brianna Takach +
Jacal Dianna Washington +

Master of Business Administration Business Administration/General

Jada Mayani Diggs
Marlene Alejandra Ramirez

Business Administration/Healthcare Management

Valada Amber Lewis

Master of Business Administration

Business Administration/Entrepreneurship

Travon Shaquez Johnson

Master of Education Counselor Education

Royal Marie Clemonts

Master of Education Secondary Ed/Secondary Phys Ed

Corey Genaro Fields

Master of Science Transportation

Cuthbert Ruseruka

Master of Science Nutrition

Kierra R. Cox

Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees

The academic honors of Summa Cum Laude (3.75-4.00), Magna Cum Laude (3.50-3.74), and Cum Laude (3.00-3.49) are designated in the commencement program for undergraduate students with outstanding scholastic records based on their current cumulative grade point averages where A=4, B=3, C=2 (See page fourteen).

Summa Cum Laude

Gold Tassels and Gold Stoles

Magna Cum Laude

Gold Tassels and Gold Honor Cords

Cum Laude

Gold Tassels

College of Graduate and Professional Studies – Dr. Lakeisa Tucker, Acting Dean

Bachelor of Arts

Speech Pathology and Audiology

Doria Genese Cole
Caitlin L. Herriott
Trinity Audriauna Kelley
Oluwaremilekun Olalere
Shannon Faith Cunningham
Jamaiya Imani Roach

Bachelor of Science

Criminal Justice

Janel Quintasia Brown
Craig S. Nelson
Quinshawn R. Norwood
Taviance Mikiyah Roberts
Jakari Williams
Nathaniel L. Wilcox
Bianca Wilson

Bachelor of Science

Physical Education

Malik Lamar Lanham

Bachelor of Science

Physical Education/ Activity

Management

Donte' Lennell Anthony
Khi A. Baker
Damajeea J. Boxley
Carlton Rodgers
Juwan T. Moody +
Chastin Darrell Newman

Bachelor of Social Work

Ashton Natasha Jackson

College of Business and Information Systems – Dr. Matthew Guah, Dean

Bachelor of Science

Management

Brooke-Lynne Glover
Jamir Tylik McKenzie
Lauren McKenzie Thomas
Shadya Nyleya White
Krishawn Jamal Wilson
Shanice Danielle Wright

Bachelor of Science

Marketing

Asia Rayna Crump
Christopher Michael Jackson

College of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences – Dr. M. Evelyn Fields, Dean

**Bachelor of Arts
Communications/Broadcasting**

Lawson L. Danley
Arnel J. Hammond

**Bachelor of Arts
English**

Sharmaine Marquay Simmons +

**Bachelor of Arts
Music Industry**

Gabriel D. Nkhata
Cadra Nicole Salley
John Willie Sloan III

**Bachelor of Arts
Studio Art**

Jeremiah Traveon Burris
Julian Fulmore
Kymteasha Townsend

**Bachelor of Arts
Political Science**

Travis S. Blissett

**Bachelor of Arts
Sociology**

Kentasia Brown
Deasia Alize Mack

**Bachelor of Science
Early Childhood Education**

Micayla Sarya Charley
De'siree L. James
Xenia S. Johnson
Natori Murphy

**Bachelor of Science
Psychology**

Erren Jean-Pierre +
Janayia Reshea' Johnson
Gabrielle Nashay Martin
Za'Naiya D'Aryelle McReynolds
Caitlyn Dianne Oliver
Dominique Brianna Roberts
Angela Lavette Walker
Chukeya N. Williams

**Bachelor of Science
Special Education**

Lauren M. Garner

**Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education**

Jalen Anthony Dugar
Domonique D. Edmondson
Jevon C. Holt

College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Transportation
Dr. Stanley Ihekweazu, Dean

**Bachelor of Science
Biology**

Jessica Rachelle Baxter
Ny'Aisha Monet Brown
Deja Hubbard
Jasmine Makayla Brown +
Shaniyah Emori Campbell
Oneal Pinckney
Chyla Simmons

**Bachelor of Science
Civil Engineering Technology**

River Diahna McClelland
Kearra Marie Sheppard-Williams

**Bachelor of Science
Civil Engineering**

Emion Shyla Hemphill-Moore

**Bachelor of Science
Computer Science**

Jordan Davion Brown +
Tae Choice
Terence Lamar Duncan
Dallas Ervin Foard
Timothy A. Ewing
Antwann G. Haggins
Michael Jaiden Kemp
Jordan Anthony Loudon
Tyshaun Akeem Pressley
Rashawn Lavoisier Smith
Avery Bralyn Williams

**Bachelor of Science
Electrical Engineering Technology**

Curtrell S. Pinckney

**Bachelor of Science
Industrial Technology**

Tyrese Chinn

**Bachelor of Science
Mechanical Engineering Technology**

William Charles Cannady
Dwayne Lavon Curnell
Tyree Malik Miller
Gibril Michael Ouessiegnon
Faith A. Polite
Tristan N. Thompson

**Bachelor of Science
Nuclear Engineering**

Madison A. Turmon
Ashanti NyJai Meyers
Sadat A. Pollard
Jeremy Omar Ray

**Bachelor of Science
Agribusiness**

Keshauna Ashley Davis

**Bachelor of Science
Family and Consumer Sciences**

Malia A. Bailey +
Kindall Elizabeth Baldwin +
Mikayla R. Foggie
Kerristen Fogle
Dajon F. Funderburk
Dinah Marie Gamble
Tobaria Shambria Hamm
Christopher Jadon Jones
DeSharah Carmella Israel
Juelle T. King
Javarius Antonio Leamon
TyTiona Ka’Nya Mack
Nicola R. Scott
Atiba Rakeim Taylor

+July Graduates
* Posthumous Degrees

South Carolina State University Salutes Its Students Graduating With Honors!

The academic honors of Summa Cum Laude (3.75–4.00), Magna Cum Laude (3.50–3.74), and Cum Laude (3.00–3.49) are designated in the commencement program for undergraduate students with outstanding scholastic records based on their cumulative quality point averages (A=4, B=3, C=2) available at the time of printing (final grades for the current semester may not have posted).

**College of Business and Information
Systems**

Summa Cum Laude

Shanice Danielle Wright

Magna Cum Laude

Asia Rayna Crump

Cum Laude

Brooke-Lynne Glover
Shadyma Nyleya White

**College of Graduate and Professional
Studies**

Summa Cum Laude

Nathaniel L. Wilcox

Cum Laude

Shannon Faith Cunningham#
Trinity Audriauna Kelley#
Doria Genese Cole
Quinshawn R. Norwood
Carlton Rodgers
Donte’ Lennell Anthony
Taviance Mikiyah Roberts
Jakari Williams
Jamaiya Imani Roach

**College of Education, Humanities and
Social Sciences**

Summa Cum Laude

Micayla Sarya Charley#
Sharmaine Marquay Simmons

Magna Cum Laude

Natori Murphy

Cum Laude

Gabriel D. Nkhata
Domonique D. Edmondson
Janayia Reshea’ Johnson
Lauren M. Garner
John Willie Sloan
De’siree L. James
Jevon C. Holt
Jalen Anthony Dugar

**College of Science, Technology,
Engineering, Mathematics and
Transportation**

Summa Cum Laude

Jessica Rachelle Baxter#
Tristan N. Thompson
Madison A. Turmon#
Faith A. Polite#

Magna Cum Laude

Emion Shyla Hemphill-Moore
Jordan Davion Brown#

Cum Laude

Dwayne Lavon Curnell
Deja Hubbard
Jasmine Makayla Brown#
Jeremy Omar Ray
Avery Bralyn Williams
Tyshaun Akeem Pressley

**College of Agriculture and Family &
Consumer Sciences**

Magna Cum Laude

Keshauna Ashley Davis#
Juelle T. King

Cum Laude

Kerristen Fogle
DeSharah Carmella Israel
Mikayla R. Foggie
Tobaria Shambria Hamm
Atiba Rakeim Taylor
Nicola R. Scott

Dissertations Titles for July and December 2023

Doctor of Education

Campbell, Janet Yolanda

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TEACHER SELF-EFFICACY IN CULTURALLY RELEVANT PRACTICES ON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Advisor

Cooper, Ernest Wardell

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DISTRICTS' CONTRACTUAL PARTNERSHIP WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OF SCHOOL SAFETY IN RURAL SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Advisor

Dingle, Angela

THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 ON THIRD GRADE STUDENTS' MATH AND ELA PERFORMANCE IN SOUTH CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY TITLE I ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Dr. Necati, Engec, Advisor

Kelly, Demeturia L.

AN EXAMINATION OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN SOUTH CAROLINA BEFORE AND AFTER COVID-19 IN RELATION TO COLLEGE READINESS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Michael A. Boatwright, Advisor

McGill, Fabien Malique

COVID-19'S IMPACT ON THE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS BETWEEN THE 2019-2022 SCHOOL YEARS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS & MATHEMATICS

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Advisor

Robinson, Felicia Diana

FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE JOB SATISFACTION AND RETENTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Advisor

Taylor, Dyisha Richardson

THE IMPACT OF TRADITIONAL VERSES PERFORMANCE-BASED PAY ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THE MIDLANDS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Dr. Michael A. Boatwright, Advisor

Watson, Zakaria Ali

IMPACT COVID-19 HAD ON ELEM SCHOOLS' READING ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Michael A. Boatwright, Advisor

Wiley, Rhonda Jivers

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRESCHOOLING ON SCHOOL READINESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Advisor

Rank of Second Lieutenant Commissioned Officers from the Class of 2023

BAKER, KHI A	UNKNOWN	USAR
HAGGINS, ANTWANN G	UNKNOWN	USAR
ISRAEL, DESHAREAH C	TRANSPORTATION	SCNG
KING, JUELLE T	MILITARY POLICE	ACTIVE DUTY
LITTLEJOHN, ZEDISHA M	CHEMICAL	SCNG
NORWOOD, QUINSHAWN R	ARMOR	ACTIVE DUTY
PINKNEY, O'NEAL JR.	ORDNANCE	ACTIVE DUTY

Disclaimer: This Commencement program booklet lists the names of students who have applied for graduation. However, the appearance of the names of these candidates for graduation in the booklet does not mean that they have completed all the requirements to earn the degree for which they applied. The official transcript indicating that the degree has been awarded is the proof that the degree has been earned.

Division of Academic Affairs—Chief Administrators

Dr. Frederick M. G. Evans
Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Dr. David Staten
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

Mr. Elbert R. Malone
Associate Provost for Sponsored
Programs & Research

Deans

Dr. Matthew Guah
Dean, College of Business & Information Systems

Dr. Lakeisa Tucker
Acting Dean, College of Graduate & Professional Studies

Dr. Ruth Hodges
Dean, Miller Whittaker Library

Dr. Stanley Ihekweazu
Dean, College of Science, Technology, Engineering,
Mathematics & Transportation

Dr. Evelyn Fields
Dean, College of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. William H. Whitaker, Jr.
Dean, Dr. Emily E. Clyburn Honors College

Dr. Ralph Noble
Dean, College of Agriculture, Family & Consumer Sciences

Chairpersons

Dr. Hasanul Basher
Chair, Department of Engineering Technology

Dr. Mable Scott
Acting Chair, Department of Health Sciences

Dr. Musa Danjaji
Chair, Department of Engineering

Lt. Col. Antonio Pittman
Chair, Department of Military Science & Homeland Security

Dr. Tolulope Filani
Chair, Department of Visual and Performing Arts

Dr. Matthew Guah
Acting Chair, Department of Business Administration
& Information Systems

Dr. Janice Hawes
Chair, Department of English & Communications

Dr. Maria James
Chair, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Dr. June Bethea
Acting Chair, Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology

Dr. Benedict Jua
Chair, Department of Social Sciences

Dr. Lakeisa Tucker
Acting Chair, Department of Human Services

Dr. Judith Salley-Guydon
Chair, Department of Biological and Physical Sciences

Dr. George Johnson
Acting Chair, Department of Education

Dr. Nikunja Swain
Chair, Department of Computer Science & Mathematics

Records and Registration

Mrs. Felicia L. McMillan
Registrar

Reader

Ms. Ursula Robinson
Professor of Drama

Board of Trustees

Mr. Douglas D. Gantt, Chairman, '84
Dr. Macie P. Smith, Vice Chairperson, '99 '02
Mrs. Starlee D. Alexander
Mr. Jameel O. Allen '01
Dr. Louveta R. Dicks, '79 '07 '14
Mr. Ronald D. Friday
Dr. Doris R. Helms

Mr. Rodney C. Jenkins, '73
Mr. William L. Oden
Mrs. Monica R. Scott
Dr. Wilbur B. Shuler, '68
Dr. Daniel R. Varat

Ex-Officio Members

Mr. Henry (Hank) Allen, '78
Ms. Zyah Cephus
Mr. Alexander Thierry
Dr. Franklin Pressley, '11

President's Cabinet, COL Ret. Alexander Conyers, President

Dr. Frederick M.G. Evans
**Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs**

Dr. Gerald H. Smalls
**Vice President of Finance and
Administrations/Chief Financial Officer**

Dr. Tamara Jeffries-Jackson
Vice President for Student Affairs

Mrs. Shondra F. Abraham
Chief of Staff

Attorney Pete M. Balthazor
General Counsel

Mr. Oliver "Buddy" Pough, III
Acting Athletics Director

Dr. Louis D. Whitesides
**Vice President and Executive Director of
1890 Research and Extension**

Mr. Delbert T. Foster
**Associate Administrator
1890 Research and Extension**

Mrs. Sonja Bennett-Bellamy
**Vice President of Communication,
Marketing, and Strategic Alliances**

Dr. Manicia J. Finch
**Vice President of Enrollment
Management**

Mr. Ken Davis
**Associate Vice President, Facilities
Management/Planning & Construction**

Mr. Eric Ham
Chief Information Officer

Dr. John M. Lee, Jr.
**Vice President for Institutional
Advancement**

Members of the Fall 2023 Commencement Committee

Mr. Elbert Malone, **Co-Chair**
Dr. Judith Salley-Guydon, **Co-Chair**
Dr. Frederick M. G. Evans
Mrs. Shondra Abraham
Mrs. Felicia McMillan
LTC Antonio Pittman
Mrs. Debra Darby
Chief Timothy Taylor
Mr. Eric Ham
Dr. Tamara Jeffries-Jackson
Dr. Franklin Pressley
Dr. Patrick Moore
LTC Anthony Watson

Dr. Jennifer Cash
Dr. Johnnie Felder
Mrs. Iva Gardener
Ms. Zyah Cephus
Ms. Pinkey Carter
Ms. Stacy Gregg
Mr. Ken Davis
Mrs. Sharon D. Heatley
Ms. Deborah Blacknall
Mrs. Gwendolyn Mitchell-Ulmer
Ms. Marsha Gunter
Mrs. Stephanie Felks
Dr. Rosetta Dingle

Mrs. Crystal Howell-Darby
Ms. Naseema Moore
Mr. Jermaine Winston
Mrs. Sharon Wade-Byrd
Dr. Musa Danjaji
Mr. Joseph Thomas
Ms. Kay Snider
Mr. Sean Jones
Mr. Marcus Glenn
Ms. Shirley McDonald
Mr. Mitchell Chapman
Ms. Demier Richardson-Sanders
Mr. Demetrius Chatman

Mrs. Cathi Mack
Mrs. Doris Johnson-Felder
Mr. Carl A'See
Ms. Alberta Gilmore
Ms. Nicolette Houston
Dr. Eunjoo Yi
Dr. Lamin Drammeh
Dr. Matthew Guah
Dr. Samuel Littlejohn
Mr. Samuel Watson
Dr. Eric Williams
Dr. Reginald Williams

Alumni Oath

I hereby solemnly pledge allegiance to my Alma Mater in appreciation of the opportunities for development afforded me at South Carolina State University. I pledge active membership in the National Alumni Association wherever I may be. Through association with my fellow alumni, I shall forever do my best to uphold the ideals and traditions of my Alma Mater. I pledge to exemplify high ideals by rendering positive and dignified service to the community, state, nation, and world, thus living to bring honor and respect to my Alma Mater.

The Star Spangled Banner

Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream.
'Tis the star-spangled banner. Oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh! thus be it ever when free men shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation,
Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

--Frances Scott Key (1814)

*Alma Mater**

Sing the praise of Alma Mater
Let us rally to her calls
Lift our voices, send them ringing
Thru the groves and classic halls.

Hail! Hail! Dear Alma Mater
Hail! Hail! Dear S.C.C.
We'll defend and honor
Love and cherish thee.

We are loyal sons and daughters
Proud to own the name we bear,
For the truths that thou has taught us
Ready all to do and dare.

--Robert Shaw Wilkinson
(Second President, 1911-1932)

*Words written by Dr. Robert Shaw Wilkinson, second president of South Carolina State College. Mr. Ted D. Phillips, an alumnus, wrote the music.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION



South Carolina State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. Degree-granting institutions also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of South Carolina State University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

The following academic programs are accredited by various specialized accrediting bodies.

- Business Programs (AACSB): AACSB provides internationally recognized, specialized accreditation for business and accounting programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. It is the most recognized form of specialized/professional accreditation an institution and its business programs can earn.
- Civil Engineering Program (ABET): The Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), www.abet.org under the General Criteria and Program Criteria for Civil and Similar Named Engineering Programs.
- Civil Engineering Technology Program (ABET): The Civil Engineering Technology Program at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, <https://www.abet.org>, under the general criteria and the Civil Engineering Technology Program Criteria.
- Computer Science Programs (ABET): The Computer Science program is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, <https://www.abet.org>, under the General Criteria and the Computer Science and Similarly Named Computing Programs under the Program Criteria. Contact the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET at <https://www.abet.org> for questions about the accreditation of the Computer Science Program at South Carolina State University.
- Counselor Education Program (CACREP): The Counselor Education Program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). CACREP Accreditation provides recognition that the content and quality of the program has been evaluated and meets standards set by the profession.
- Electrical Engineering Technology Program (ABET): The Electrical Engineering Technology Program at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, <https://www.abet.org>, under the general criteria and the Electrical Engineering Technology Program Criteria.
- Family & Consumer Science Programs (AAFCS): The Family and Consumer Sciences programs are accredited by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (<https://www.aafcs.org/credentialing-center/accreditation/accredited-units>).
- Industrial Engineering Program (ABET): The Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), www.abet.org under the General Criteria and Program Criteria for Industrial and Similarly Named Engineering Programs.
- Industrial Engineering Technology Program (ABET): The Industrial Engineering Technology Program at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, <https://www.abet.org>, under the general criteria and the Industrial Engineering Technology Program Criteria.
- Mechanical Engineering Technology Program (ABET): The Mechanical Engineering Technology Program at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, <https://www.abet.org>, under the general criteria and the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program Criteria.
- Music Programs (NASM): South Carolina State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) to award a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education, PK-12, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Industry. Contact the NASM at 11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21, Reston, Virginia 20190-5248 or call 703-437-0700 for questions about the accreditation of the South Carolina State University Music Unit.
- Nuclear Engineering Program (ABET): The Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), www.abet.org under the General Criteria and Program Criteria for Nuclear, Radiological, and Similarly Named Engineering Programs.
- Nutrition & Food Management Program—Food Option (ACEND): The Nutrition and Food Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>).
- Rehabilitation Counseling Program (CACREP): The Rehabilitation Counseling Program at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). CACREP Accreditation provides recognition that the content and quality of the program has been evaluated and meets standards set by the profession.
- Social Work Program (CSWE): The Social Work Program at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation. Accreditation of a baccalaureate or master's social work program by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of program quality evaluated through a peer review process. An accredited program has sufficient resources to meet its mission and goals and the Commission on Accreditation has verified that it demonstrates compliance with all sections of the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. Accreditation applies to all program sites and program delivery methods of an accredited program. Accreditation provides reasonable assurance about the quality of the program and the competence of students graduating from the program.
- Speech Pathology & Audiology Program (ASHA): The Master of Arts education program (M.A.) in Speech Pathology and Audiology at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.
- Studio Art Program (NASAD): South Carolina State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, NASAD.
- Teacher Education Programs (CAEP): CAEP advances equity and excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning.

In addition, The Child Development Learning Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (<https://www.naeyc.org/>). The Counseling and Self-Development Center has been re-accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS), the accreditation association for university and college counseling centers. After being evaluated for its compliance with the IACS Standards, the highest standards available for campus counseling centers, the Counseling and Self-Development Center was found to offer outstanding professional services to its clientele.

