The College of Westchester Celebrates its 104th Graduation Commencement

The College of Westchester celebrated its 104th graduation at the Westchester County Center on Thursday, May 30, 2019. As part of the celebrations, the event included opening remarks by President Mary Beth Del Balzo and keynote speaker Thomas A. Kloet, member of the Board of Directors of Nasdaq, Inc., and Chairman of the Board of the Nasdaq Stock Market, LLC.

With more than four decades of service to The College of Westchester, President Del Balzo congratulated the Class of 2019 as the college celebrated its 104th anniversary, “You have what it takes – don’t let anyone ever discourage you on your path to continued success. In times of uncertainty, reflect on today’s celebration and all that you’ve achieved. Remind yourself that not only do you have the education to succeed, but you also have determination, motivation, perseverance and confidence – the attributes that got you here today.”

New York State’s Proprietary Colleges Celebrate Graduates

The Commencement Edition: Honoring the Class of 2019

For more than a century, New York’s proprietary colleges have been a workforce pipeline for businesses in a variety of industries across the Empire State. The 12 members of the Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC) have been educating students on campuses and online from Buffalo to Brooklyn, helping them achieve their personal, professional and academic goals.

Last year, APC member colleges conferred more than 3,500 bachelor’s degrees, 3,100 associate degrees, nearly 800 master’s degrees and 294 certificates. In total, there are more than 7,600 individuals who made a commitment to enhancing their education and improving their lives. APC is extremely proud of the history of its member colleges and their commitment to providing an affordable and quality education to everyone.

This commencement edition features student achievement and provides a line of sight to the faculty who together make all of those degrees a reality.
Five Towns College 2019 Commencement Features Distinguished Alumnus and Musician Wyclef Jean

On Saturday May 18, 2019, a total of 125 students walked across the stage at the Five Towns College (FTC) 45th annual commencement and received their diplomas in the Eugene Orloff Auditorium at the Half Hollow Hills High School East in Dix Hills, NY.

In addition to recognizing accomplished students, faculty and staff, Five Towns College historically honors esteemed professionals who are an inspiration not only to the graduates but also to society at large, and the May 2019 commencement was no exception. The Distinguished Honorary Doctorate Degrees of 2019 were conferred to Jeannel Wyclef Jean (Doctor of Music), solo superstar and founding member of the popular music group the Fugees, and Vanessa R. Tyler (Doctor of Humane Letters), Emmy award winning and six-time Emmy nominated Reporter/Anchor. Best known for his music with the hip-hop group the Fugees, Wyclef Jean is also a writer, performer, producer, and former FTC student who guided the trio to release the Billboard chart-topping album The Score in 1996. With the smash hit “Killing me Softly,” the album was certified six times platinum.

The college was privileged to present an Honorary Doctorate to Vanessa Tyler, executive producer of The Spot with Vanessa Tyler and weekend news anchor for FiOs1 News. She is a former [cont. on next page]
WPIX-TV reporter as well, with a long-standing record of outstanding accomplishments. Amira Khan was the Class of 2019 Valedictorian. She received a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Business Management/Audio Recording Technology.

Following graduation from Five Towns College, Amira Khan already received a few job opportunities, including being part of a production team for a live sound company, working as a photographer for a web e-commerce company, and another opportunity as a production assistant at an entertainment company.

Salutatorian Jessica Hancock received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts. Ms. Hancock addressed her fellow graduates at the 2019 graduation ceremony.

Berkeley College Graduates Are in Demand in New York’s Workforce

Berkeley College’s Class of 2019 includes more than 2,200 graduates, representing the rich diversity of the U.S. with high representation of LatinX and African-American students. Family and friends joined graduates at the commencement on May 10, 2019.

“Every one of us at the Berkeley College Commencement ceremony shares the pride of these graduates because we know the difference a college degree will make in their futures, and how the upward mobility of these graduates will impact future generations,” said Michael J. Smith, President of Berkeley College.

“The average age of the Berkeley College undergraduates receiving an award today is 28. Yes, the unemployment rate is low, but these new graduates may well continue to overcome obstacles and work hard to earn their way. They are prepared and ready, and we look forward to their continued success. So many have demonstrated their commitment to give back to their communities and pay it forward.”

Just under 39 percent of the graduates entered as first time, full-time students; and, 84 percent identify as minorities. Berkeley College offers a career-focused experience with students able to take advantage of traditional and online classes, with programs in more than 20 fields of study.

Michael Iris, Associate Vice President, Alumni Relations and Career Services presented the Alumna of the Year award to Karen Pena, Berkeley College Class of 2009. “In addition to her love of learning, Karen actively gives back to the community through volunteer efforts that promote her Peruvian heritage and helping others,” said Mr. Iris. “Karen cites her education and raising four children as a single parent among her greatest achievements thus far. Her own mother, her children and grandson continue to inspire her every day.”

Student Development and Campus Life Vice President Dallas Reed, PhD, presented the Outstanding Student Award to Cynthia Caruso, Class of 2019. While Ms. Caruso was initially uncertain about returning to college as an adult, she knew it was the right decision, especially when she found out she could earn her degree online. She received Dean’s or President’s [cont. on next page]
List honors every semester. She recently accepted an invitation to serve on the Berkeley College Online Advisory Board.

Mr. Zambrano quickly became a leader at Berkeley’s New York campus, where he served as president of the Berkeley Spartans, a student-veterans club affiliated with Student Veterans of America. Mr. Zambrano also interned as a Veterans Outreach Specialist with Bergen County Veteran Services in Hackensack, NJ. Following graduation, he will join the Division of Family Guidance in Bergen County, NJ, a resource for New Jersey families and at-risk youth. He hopes to pursue a Master’s degree and to establish a nonprofit for veterans.

Mauro “Ricky” Zambrano of Lyndhurst, NJ earned his Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies – Criminal Justice.

In Morocco, Ms. Bendriss was a middle school art teacher and freelance fashion designer, but when she came to the United States in 1998, she struggled to learn the English language. Ms. Bendriss worked in retail to support her family and two children, finding it difficult to land a job in a creative field without upgrading her knowledge of the software. She thrived at Berkeley College, becoming a Peer Tutor, a high-achieving member of the Honors Program as well as the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Amal Bendriss of Bloomfield, NJ - who is also a native of Morocco, earned her Bachelor of Arts degree with honors, magna cum laude in Graphic Design.

Bryant & Stratton College Graduates Celebrate from Buffalo to Albany

During its 162nd graduation, Bryant & Stratton College awarded degrees to 827 students during four commencements that took place across the state. Class of 2019 ceremonies took place at the John H. Mulroy Civic Center in Syracuse on April 20; the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany on April 27; the Kodak Center for Performing Arts in Rochester on May 31; and the Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo on June 14.

In total, Bryant & Stratton College awarded degrees to 827 students that studied on campuses across New York State.

A distinguished educator, author and member of the NYS Board of Regents, Catherine Collins keynoted the 2019 commencement in Buffalo, NY. She has dedicated her personal and professional life to promoting good health and a sound education, with an emphasis on the needs of underserved youth/women and individuals in Western NY. Collins has received 70 awards and honors throughout her career, and is currently an associate professor at SUNY Empire State College.

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On April 27, 2019 the Bryant & Stratton Albany campus held its commencement at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. Hundreds were in attendance to support the graduating students.

Bryant & Stratton’s Syracuse graduation took place at the John H. Mulroy Civic Center on April 20, 2019 and featured Sheraton University Conference Center General Manager David Heymann.

On May 31, 2019 at Kodak Performing Arts Center, the Bryant & Stratton Rochester campus awarded 123 degrees during the Class of 2019 graduation.

Bryant & Stratton’s Western New York graduation ceremony featured NYS Regent Catherine Collins on June 14, 2019 at Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo.
Island Drafting & Technical Institute Celebrates Graduating Class of 2019

Island Drafting & Technical Institute celebrated their graduates on May 9, 2019. New York State Senator John Brooks keynoted the ceremony, and parents, guests and graduates heard from President James G. Di Liberto and Treasurer John Di Liberto as they gave inspiring speeches to attendees.

President Di Liberto commented that IDTI has been serving the private and business sectors for more than 60 years. In fact, some of the graduate’s parents attended IDTI when they were pursuing careers.

As names were called, President Di Liberto handed out diplomas and parents beamed with joy. Graduates filed past instructors and administrators on stage, as well as family members in the audience, while cameras flashed.

President Di Liberto conferred 36 degrees, of which 24 were in Computer Aided Drafting and Design and 12 were in Electronics and Computer Service Technology. President Di Liberto also noted that all students present at the Class of 2019 commencement were employed in occupations directly related to their individual educational program.

Jamestown Business College Honors Class of 2019

Jamestown Business College (JBC) celebrated its 100 graduates of the Class of 2019 during the College’s 133rd commencement ceremony on June 1, 2019 at First Lutheran Church in Jamestown, NY.

JBC graduates and guests were welcomed by Commencement Speaker Cecil Miller III, UPMC-Chautauqua’s Vice President of Operations. The graduates also heard addresses from JBC President David Conklin, and faculty speaker Jessica Halftown. JBC conferred 90 associate degrees and 10 bachelor’s degrees during the 2018-2019 school year.

Christopher Hammond was recognized for his 4.0 GPA, and Samantha Boutelle, Annalee Alexander, Joseline Trejo, and Jannelly Colon Cruz also received awards for the highest grade point averages in their respective capstone course. Ms. Colon Cruz

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received her associate degree in applied science with a 4.0 GPA, and after graduation was hired by The Chautauqua Center as a bilingual care coordinator. She translates for both medical providers and patients in order to ensure patients receive the best care. Ms. Colon Cruz is now working toward a bachelor’s in business administration: “I have grown so much and now have a real desire to learn. I will continue to work hard and my goal is to graduate with a 4.0 in my bachelor degree!”

LIM College Celebrates Student Success and Achievement at 80th Commencement

LIM College is focused on the study of business and fashion. The Class of 2019 includes 570 students from 23 different countries, and 33 states plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. This is LIM’s largest graduating class since the college was founded in 1939. Lauren C. Anderson, a global advocate for women and youth, and a former FBI executive, gave the keynote on May 24, 2019 at Lincoln Center in Manhattan, NYC. Ms. Anderson received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the ceremony and received LIM College’s Distinguished Achievement Award. Alexandra Helmer, a Visual Studies major from Waynesville, North Carolina was the 2019 undergraduate valedictorian. Ms. Helmer will join John Varvatos Enterprises at the company’s NYC corporate office in the e-commerce/digital department.

Kristi Sloe, Class of 1996, received the Maxwell F. Marcuse Award. She is VP of Global Product Development for Laura Mercier. Named for LIM’s founder, the award is the highest alumni honor, recognizing a graduate who has reached the pinnacle of success within the business of fashion.

Bianca Caampued, Class of 2007, Co-Founder + Creative Director of Small Girls PR - a digital public relations agency, was this year’s Shining Star Alumni Award recipient.

Stefani O’Sullivan, Class of 2013 and Global Brand Marketing Manager at Moda Operandi, received the Rising Star Alumni Award.

Monroe College Confers 2,600 Degrees to Students Representing 84 Countries

Monroe College, a national leader in educating urban and international students, held its 86th Annual Commencement on June 12, 2019 at Radio City Music Hall in midtown Manhattan. Degrees were conferred to more than 2,600 students representing 84 countries. Two separate ceremonies were held to accommodate families and friends of students earning associate, bachelor’s, master’s degrees, and professional certificates.

Nivia Camara, a valued member of Monre’s staff who held a number of operations positions during her 49-year tenure at the college, served as Grand Marshal of the processional. New York State Assembly Member Victor M. Pichardo also attended and

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The School of Visual Arts Confers 1,218 Degrees

The School of Visual Arts (SVA) celebrated the Class of 2019 at Radio City Music Hall in New York City on May 15, 2019. During the college's 44th commencement, SVA President David Rhodes conferred degrees while SVA Provost Dr. Christopher Cyphers acted as the director of ceremonies. Musician, writer and artist Patti Smith was this year’s commencement speaker.

In total, the college conferred 1,218 degrees to graduating students who participated in the School of Visual Arts’ 32 academic programs.

“It would appear that your futures as artists, teachers and writers will be bright—congratulations,” Rhodes remarked during his President’s address. “You have made your mark at SVA; it is now time for you to make your mark in the larger world.”

Sammy Savos earned a Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree in cartooning and gave the Bachelor’s Candidate Address at graduation. For the Master’s Candidate Address, Jason Branch spoke to the Class of 2019 about having the courage to make hard decisions. Branch earned a Master’s of Fine Arts in design.

In total, the college conferred 372 master's degrees; 1,019 bachelor's degrees; and 1,202 associate degrees this year, as well as awarded 35 professional certificates.

Watch video from Monroe's commencement

Watch video from SVA's commencement
Swedish Institute College of Health Sciences Confers 174 Degrees and Certificates

The Swedish Institute held its 2019 graduation at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center in New York City on May 20, 2019. Swedish Institute Alumna Rachael Bieber, a licensed massage therapist, addressed the graduates during the 2019 commencement.

In total, the college conferred 21 certificates and 153 associate degrees. The college is the oldest continuously operating massage therapy institution in the U.S., and over the years it has grown to offer a number of well regarded programs for students interested in becoming clinical and administrative medical assistants, medical billing and coding experts, and surgical technologists. Programs in massage therapy, nursing, personal training and advanced personal training are also offered. The Swedish Institute College of Health Sciences continues to provide to-notch programs that are recognized by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, National Strength and Conditioning Association, and the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

Plaza College Celebrates 102nd Graduating Class

Plaza College recognized its outstanding graduates on June 23, 2019. In total, 45 bachelor degrees and 195 associate degrees were conferred during the College's 102nd commencement ceremony.

The Class of 2019 includes students with degrees from the School of Allied Health, School of Dental Studies, School of Business & Technology, and School of Legal Studies. Students of these schools benefit not only from state-of-the-art technology on campus, but hands-on learning experience gained through externships in their programs. The College has a robust network of Workforce Partners for externship placement and career opportunities after graduation. This year also marked the first graduating class of the Plaza Dental Hygiene program, which began in September 2017. These students treated over 1,500 community patients, providing oral hygiene assessment, treatment, and education services.
EBI Career College held its commencement to celebrate this year’s graduating class on August 6, 2019 at Johnson City High School in Johnson City, NY.

EBI Career College welcomed Jessica Stetts, EBI alumna from the Class of 2005 as this year’s commencement guest speaker. Ms. Stetts graduated EBI Career College with a degree in medical assisting and is currently employed at EBI as the college’s medical assisting program director.

This year marked the college’s 161st graduation, and a total of 59 associate degrees were conferred, along with an additional seven certificates in medical coding & billing. During the ceremony, degrees were conferred to graduates in the following areas of study: accounting, business administration, medical assisting, medical coding, and medical office technologies.

Did You Know?

After graduation, 9 out of 10 APC college students stay in New York to live and work.

Graduates enter the workforce with loan debt that is 28% lower than the state-wide average.
Know the facts about New York’s higher education sectors

On-Time Associate Degree Graduation Rates in New York

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<td>26.8%</td>
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Source: NYS Education Department, 2016 Data

APC Member Colleges Conferred More Than 7,600 Certificate, Associate, Bachelor, Master and Doctorate Degrees in 2017.

There are more than 26,000 students enrolled in APC member colleges that are located throughout New York State.

APC member colleges have a long history of providing an affordable and quality education. The average APC college has been in existence for more than 90 years.

Additionally, more than 2,000 veterans living in communities across New York receive an education from APC member colleges.

Did you know:
In 2017-2018, APC member colleges provided students more than $95 million in institutional aid.

Number of Degrees Conferred to APC Students

- 3,209 Associate Degrees
- 188 Certificates
- 3,416 Bachelor’s Degrees
- 857 Master’s/Doctoral Degrees

We’re proud to represent 12 degree granting colleges

Berkeley College - Est. 1931
Bryant & Stratton College - Est. 1854
The College of Westchester - Est. 1915
EBI Career College - Est. 1858
Five Towns College - Est. 1972
Island Drafting & Technical Institute - Est. 1957
Jamestown Business College - Est. 1886
LIM College - Est. 1939
Monroe College - Est. 1933
Plaza College - Est. 1916
School of Visual Arts - Est. 1947
The Swedish Institute - Est. 1916