



CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT

DECEMBER 18, 2025

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Prelude

Arshak Sirunyan, piano

***National Anthem**

Will Griswold, tenor
Arshak Sirunyan, piano

***Processional**

“Pomp and Circumstance”
Arshak Sirunyan, piano

***Invocation**

Jon Davis
Associate Vice President for Spiritual Life

Welcome

Dean Murphy
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Hymn

“Joy to the World”
Will Griswold, tenor
Arshak Sirunyan, piano

Special Music

“O Holy Night” arr. John Rutter
Will Griswold, tenor
Arshak Sirunyan, piano

Introduction of Speaker

B. Keith Faulkner
President

COMMENCEMENT

CONTINUED

Commencement Address

Anita W. Huggins
Charleston County School District Superintendent of Schools

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

Michael S. Wilder
Provost

Conferring of Degrees

B. Keith Faulkner
President

***Alma Mater**

Will Griswold, tenor
Arshak Sirunyan, piano

***Prayer of Consecration and Benediction**

Michael S. Wilder
Provost

****Recessional**

Arshak Sirunyan, piano

* The audience will please stand.

** The audience will remain in their places until graduates have dispersed.

Join us for a light reception following the ceremony.



CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Doctor of Education

Jennifer Bullock

Intervention on Emotional Intelligence in Second and Third Semester Baccalaureate Nursing Students

Ashley Marie Carter

College Success: A Qualitative Study on Transitioning After Early College

LaKeytria Julia Grant

Women in Educational Leadership Navigating Personal Health Challenges: A Qualitative Study

Beverly J. Hardin

The Lived Experience of Caregivers Implementing Evidence-Based Practices with School-Aged Children in a Nonprofit Organization

Bruce G. Hardin

Exploring the Lived Experiences of Christian Public High School Coaches Applying Their Faith Within Sports

Ashley Danielle Johnson

Social Media Usage and its Impact on Mental Health Among First-Generation College Students: A Quantitative Study

Ekerette Emmanuel Ndiokho

Exploring the Impact of Social Media on the Academic Performance of Adolescents

MASTER'S DEGREES

College of Education

Kirsten Jeanes Baldwin

Dr. Gilbertha S. Delice

Cristina Gambrell

Emma Elizabeth Holderman

Jordan Johnson

Ford Lawrence Jr.^

Karen Miller McWhite

Amy Elaine Obey

Dexter Ratliff

Joseph Sanguedolce

Heather Elaine Small

Brandi Lin VanGorder

Jada Telia Young

Hans A. Nielsen College of Business

Monea' Imani Lucille Akinjobi

Deandra Raquel Bailey

Nora Basouny

Carla Bastida Olivares

Abigail Boniewicz

Alexander MacKenzie Boyd

Adrian Cadiz^

Nathan Russell Cobb

Scott Patrick Crane

Jack Connor de Burgh

Brandon Christopher Diehl

Kacper Dobrowolski

Thomas S Dove

Keena Sherrill Edwards

Courtney Connelly Elliott

Thomas L Farris Jr

Dionna Michelle Hall

Austin Wade Hampton

Patrick Donald Hartman

Alexis Nichole Hoffman

JaNay House

Rachel Maria Johnston

Molly Elizabeth Keane

Layne Lambert

Kyle William Lewis

Melissa Lindquist

Rachel Mauro

Gerald D. McElvogue

Zachariah McMillin

Lagle Moik

William Patrick Moran^

Brian E. Neiger^

Carleen Michele Nelson

Katie Lynn Pappa

Jonathan Scott Poelker

Angela Cox Riley

Ashay Maaor Sanders

Stetson Kendrell Scott^

Michael Jacob Sharble

Robert Jason Sherwood^

Garrett Andrew Sicard

Sha'Keila Lashelle Tate

Dorell Wilfried Tayoro

Kaia Spring Thomson

Jacob Nevan Thorp

Nathaniel Tschannen

Alfreida Renee Weston

Carolyn S. White

Dana Worland

Shannon McCabe Yochum

Jianming Zhou

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

College of Adult and Professional Studies

Trevor Emmanuel Arrington
Jakai Luis Belton
Kassandra Mira Di Staulo
Randy Elijah Fillingame
Christopher Reginald Foster
Demethrus Gause
Kevin Hadley
Omar Raynard Holland
Dylan McKai Jones
Jake Manyin

Joseph Anthony Ralph Manzi
Rory Marlo McColly
Mckenzie R. Menchyk
Sheryl A. Ochieng
Lamar Dandridge Oden Jr.
Thomas Park
Kimberly Autrell Richburg-Ladson
Andrew John Scougall
Ethan Shuler
Shyamkumar Sreekumar

Zachary Thomas Storti
Maria Sweet
Cornelius Derrion Tyler
Nicholas Vitali
Melissa Ann Wagner
Jasmyn Wallace
Justin Owen Waters
Paige Michaela Zolciak

College of Nursing

Mikell Polite
Misty Nicole Shipman
Laina Joy Smith
Brianna Vaughn

College of Science and Mathematics

Dian Gong
Destiny La'niece Sheresh Green
Luiz Henrique Guimaraes

College of Health Sciences

Cameron Joshua Poyner
Sarah Turner

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Essence Gabriella Abney
Makenzie Diehl
Ralph Edward Draper III
Anna Grayce Fleenor^

JoAnna Summey Hayes
Terrance Watson Jackson
Mason Louis Keller
Paul Britt Knight

Jonathan Wesley Jacobs Lawrence
Staci Williams Webb

^ U.S. Military Veteran

ACADEMIC REGALIA AND CEREMONY

The history of academic dress dates back to the 14th century. Their use was presumably for warmth in the unheated building during European winters. Now, they are reminders of the years of work required to earn academic degrees. The color and pageantry of the academic regalia prevalent in the United States today was fixed by convention in 1895 and revised in 1932, 1959, and 1986.

There are three basic academic gowns. The gown for bachelor degrees has pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The gown for master degrees has oblong sleeves with slit openings at the elbow and the base hanging down. It is worn with a hood, and the color indicates the discipline of the degree. The doctoral gown is tastefully ornamented with colored velvet down the front and three chevrons on the bell-shaped sleeves. Only presidential gowns have a fourth chevron on the sleeves. Both the master's and doctor's hoods have a velvet border, with the doctoral hood being the more elaborate. A gold tassel on the doctor's cap replaces the black* on the master's and bachelor's caps.

The colors lining the hoods worn by the faculty are those of the institution granting the degree and the velvet border indicates the branch of knowledge in which the degree was acquired. The colors for the subjects are:

Arts and Humanities *White*
Business *Drab*
Economics *Copper*
Education *Light Blue*
Fine Arts *Brown*
Law *Purple*
Library Science *Lemon*
Medicine *Green*
Music *Pink*
Nursing *Apricot*
Philosophy *Dark Blue*
Physical Education *Sage Green*
Physical Therapy *Teal*
Science *Golden Yellow*
Theology *Scarlet*

GRADUATION BIBLE

In addition to their diplomas, each graduate will be presented with a CSU Graduation Bible provided through the Frank J. and Brenda B. Johnson Bible Endowment and the Lockman Foundation.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Anita Huggins

Charleston County School District Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Anita Huggins has served the Charleston County School District for more than 25 years as a teacher, principal, and district leader. As Superintendent, she is deeply committed to raising academic achievement, closing opportunity gaps, and strengthening support for teachers and classrooms. Under her leadership, CCSD has achieved its highest-ever South Carolina Ready scores and record College and Career Readiness rates, with meaningful gains across all student groups.

Prior to becoming Superintendent, Huggins served as Deputy Superintendent and as Executive Director of Educator Effectiveness, where she championed instructional quality, educator development, and equitable access to high-quality learning opportunities. Her career spans leadership and teaching roles across multiple CCSD school communities, reflecting a lifelong commitment to serving Charleston's students.

Charleston Southern University and the Charleston County School District have a strong partnership, which supports several of CSU's academic programs, including education. This collaboration plays a critical role in preparing future educators and leaders who will serve our region with excellence and purpose.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Superintendent Huggins' most important role is serving her family. She and her husband are parents to three children: Jenna, a junior at Clemson University; Ashyr, a first-year student at the University of Virginia; and Emi, a sophomore in the Charleston County School District. As both a parent and an educator, she leads with heart and purpose, always keeping students at the center of every decision.



Alma Mater

Hail to thee, O Charleston Southern:
Fount of God's great truth and knowledge.
We thy children all sing praises ever more to thee.
Source of inspiration, beacon of salvation;
Honor, Courage, Faith, and Justice
These thou hast taught us day by day.
Hail to thee, O Charleston Southern,
Alma Mater Hail!

