

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

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# 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**

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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<sup>^</sup>

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

Jonathan Wesley Jacobs Lawrence  
Staci Williams Webb

<sup>^</sup> 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

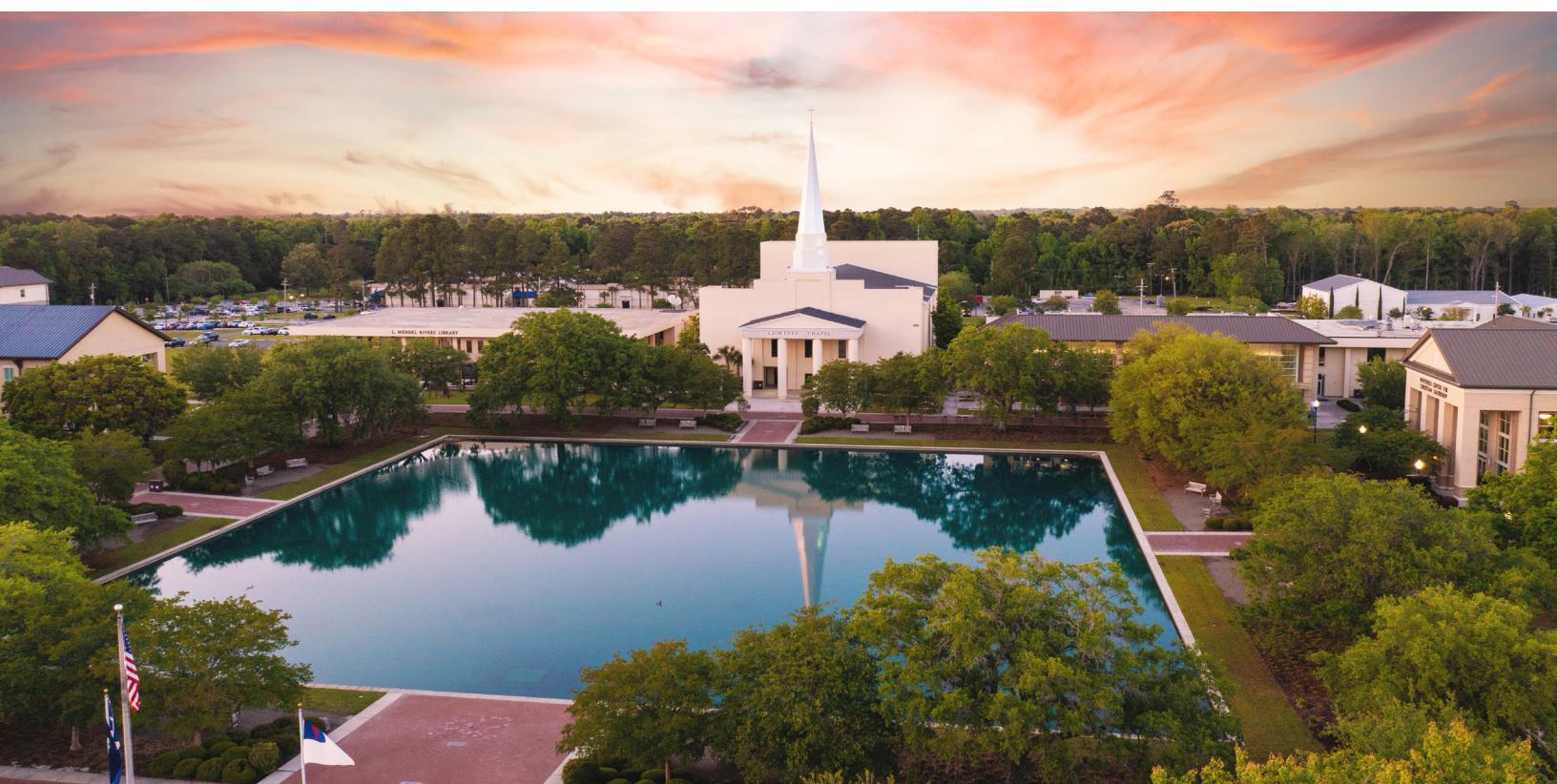
*Charleston County School District Superintendent of Schools*

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!

