

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE AWARDS CONVOCATION

Thursday, July 13, 2017, 5:30 PM

The Desmond Hotel

Albany, New York



WELCOME

Deborah Sopczyk
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

GRADUATE AWARDS PRESENTATION

Deborah Sopczyk
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

and

Laurie Carbo-Porter
Associate Provost, Academic Affairs

Presenting to

SEAN MACK

Center for Educational Measurement Award

KRISTI KAYE BARFIELD

Michael J. Cooley Memorial Award

PATRICIO CARDONAVEGA

Arthur J. Gregg Award

STEVEN BURN

Robert E. Kinsinger Award

JOANNA LEW

Dr. Robert L. Long Award for
Academic Excellence in Nuclear Engineering Technology

LISA S. HARVEY

Mildred L. Montag Memorial Award

WALTER W. MALONE

Ewald B. Nyquist Award

TIMOTHY ABBOTT

Student Support Award
for Supporting Monica Abbott

ALUMNI AWARDS PRESENTATION

Dwayn Hanford, BS '05
President, Alumni Leadership Council
and
Sandra Butterfield, BS '86
Secretary, Alumni Leadership Council

Presenting to

MEGHAN ELIZABETH COOK '94
Alumni Achievement Award

JESSICA ROSE CHEVERIE '02, '17
Alumni Service Award

LEONA KONIECZNY '82
Carrie B. Lenburg Award

TIMOTHY W. CARLISLE '86, '03
C. Wayne Williams Award

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT REMARKS

Carolyn Y. Woo
Former President and CEO, Catholic Relief Services

ADJOURN

Deborah Sopczyk
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

GRADUATE AWARDS

Center for Educational Measurement Award

This award is presented to a graduate who demonstrates excellence on Excelsior College Examinations or UExcel exams while using those exams to fulfill a substantial part of their degree requirements.

SEAN MACK

Bachelor of Science

Michael J. Cooley Memorial Award

The Michael J. Cooley Memorial Award is presented to a health sciences student in memory and recognition of the contributions of Michael Cooley to the School of Health Sciences, as a beloved and dedicated adjunct faculty member. The recipient of the award is a graduate of the School of Health Sciences who embodies exemplary academic achievement and exceptional perseverance. This graduate accepts the challenges that befall an adult learner and embraces the opportunity to grow academically, professionally, and personally within the health sciences discipline.

KRISTI KAYE BARFIELD

Bachelor of Science

Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award

This award is given in memory of Catherine Craig-Erhardt, a member of the College staff beginning in 1980, who, from 1984 until her untimely death in 1986, served as the College's liaison to the military. It recognizes and commemorates her commitment to helping military servicemembers attain their educational goals and is presented for service to others, commitment to education, and for academic, professional, and personal achievement.

LEON MICHAEL BANTA

Bachelor of Professional Studies

RONALD D. FLICK

Bachelor of Science

Arthur J. Gregg Award

This award recognizes the leadership and vision of founding trustee Lt. General Arthur J. Gregg [U.S. Army (Ret.)]. General Gregg chaired the College's Board of Overseers and guided the transition to independence as a private institution, becoming the first chair of the Board of Trustees. With a distinguished career in the U.S. Army, General Gregg has contributed greatly to the College's service to the U.S. military. The award is presented to a student who is on active duty in the military and who demonstrates outstanding academic and career or professional achievement.

PATRICIO CARDONAVEGA

Bachelor of Science



GRADUATE AWARDS

Dwayn Hanford Award

This award is presented in recognition of Excelsior College alumnus Dwayn Hanford. As current president of the Excelsior College Alumni Leadership Council, a past C. Wayne Williams Award recipient, and adjunct instructor for the School of Public Service, Hanford is a strong advocate and ally to the school and the mission to educate 21st-century public sector leaders and citizens. The recipient of the Dwayn Hanford Award has completed an undergraduate degree from the School of Public Service with academic excellence and significant community involvement.

JOSEPH JAMES DAVERN

Bachelor of Science

Robert E. Kinsinger Award

This award recognizes the leadership and vision of founding trustee Dr. Robert E. Kinsinger. As the first chair of the College's Board of Overseers, Kinsinger built upon his earlier relationship with the College as a vice president of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. While at the Foundation, Kinsinger encouraged and supported the development of the Regents College nursing degree programs, an interest that he carried forward into his work as an overseer and later as a trustee. The award is presented to a student who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement and who is involved with the nonprofit sector as either an employee or volunteer.

STEVEN BURN

Associate in Applied Science

Charles W. Laffin Jr. Memorial Award

In recognition of Charles W. Laffin Jr., whose vision and leadership gave momentum to a fledgling community college movement and left a legacy of opportunity to millions of adult learners, and in gratitude for his invaluable service to Excelsior College, the faculty of the College presents this award for academic excellence and outstanding achievement.

ROBERT C. MERCER

Bachelor of Science

Dr. Robert L. Long Award for Academic Excellence in Nuclear Engineering Technology

The Dr. Robert L. Long Award for Academic Excellence in Nuclear Engineering Technology was created in recognition of Dr. Long's service and contribution to Excelsior College. He was regarded as an expert in nuclear education and a proponent of the link between training and education and the safe operation of nuclear facilities. Students selected for this award must work in the nuclear power industry, be a member of the American Nuclear Society, and be nominated by faculty in the nuclear engineering technology program.

JOANNA LEW

Bachelor of Science



GRADUATE AWARDS

Robert P. Mahoney Award

In recognition of Dr. Robert P. Mahoney's outstanding contributions to liberal arts education at this College and his devotion to serving his community, this award is presented to a liberal arts graduate who completed his/her degree in the face of significant challenges and demonstrated a dedication to community and volunteer service.

CHARLES DAVID LEVI WALLACE

Bachelor of Science

Mildred L. Montag Memorial Award

This award is given in recognition of Dr. Mildred L. Montag's national leadership in nursing and nursing education and her distinguished contribution to the development of the nursing programs offered by Excelsior College. The graduate selected to receive this award has completed the Excelsior College Master of Science program in nursing and has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and excellence in all of the nursing courses, including the capstone course.

LISA S. HARVEY

Master of Science

Ewald B. Nyquist Award

In recognition of the leadership of Ewald B. Nyquist, founder of the College, who was determined to extend the quality of educational opportunity from kindergarten through college to learners everywhere, the trustees of Excelsior College present this award for academic excellence and outstanding achievement in earning a degree through independent study.

WALTER W. MALONE

Bachelor of Science

Jean M. Smith Award

This award recognizes the leadership and vision of founding trustee Jean Smith. Smith's career in banking has been characterized by a deep commitment to institutions that are devoted to improving society. Her passion for social justice informed her work with the College, first as an overseer and later as a trustee, as she worked to support its students. The award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding academic and professional achievement in the world of business.

BRIANNA C. SHEARER

Associate in Applied Science

Student Support Award

The Student Support Award is presented to a person (or persons) whose assistance and encouragement played a significant role in a graduate's quest to earn an Excelsior College degree.

TIMOTHY ABBOTT

nominated by

MONICA ABBOTT

Master of Science

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Sean Mack

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MEASUREMENT AWARD

Sean Mack of Brooklyn, New York, is the recipient of the Center for Educational Measurement Award, presented to a graduate who demonstrates excellence in the Excelsior College® Examinations or UExcel® exams while using those exams to fulfill a substantial part of their degree requirements. Mack graduated in 2017 with Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts. He completed four UExcel exams for the 2016 calendar year, achieving the highest grade for each.

Mack has performed with the now-defunct New York State Theatre Institute, performing “A Tale of Cinderella” and recording an audiobook of “The Killings Tale.” He has sung with Albany Pro Musica, the Navy’s Sea Chanters, and at many local events. Mack has worked as an accountant on the CBS television show “Blue Bloods,” and has been featured on the cover of Security Management magazine.

He has also copyedited August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle” at the Greene Space for New York Public Radio.

Mack’s most recent employer was the U.S. Secret Service where he was a uniformed division officer, and he also owns and operates a tour company in Charleston, South Carolina. Mack won an award with the State Department for awareness and autonomous implementation of a new identification policy, and was previously selected by the Campaign for America’s Future as an Emerging Progressive Leader. He was also selected for the Welsh Law Schools National Conference at Gregynog.

Kristi Kaye Barfield

MICHAEL J. COOLEY MEMORIAL AWARD

Kristi Kaye Barfield of Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin, is the recipient of the Michael J. Cooley Memorial Award, which recognizes the exemplary academic achievement and exceptional perseverance of a School of Health Sciences graduate. Barfield earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences in 2017 with a 3.53 GPA, graduating cum laude.

While in the program, Barfield balanced work, family, and school; even while on vacation, she and her family drove around, looking for Wi-Fi hotspots so she could complete a quiz for a course! She has discovered a passion for mentoring, sharing, and teaching in palliative and hospice care, and writes that life has equipped her with skills that are the result of valuable experiences, determination, and hard work. She also has gained a new appreciation for a diversity of viewpoints that have broadened her perspective.

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Since completing the program, Barfield has accepted a position as a clinical education manager in a not-for-profit hospice that supports her passion for hospice care and commitment to inclusivity in providing services for all. In this new role, Barfield will continue to be a mentor for new clinicians while fostering an environment that encourages learning and growth.

Leon Michael Banta

CATHERINE CRAIG-ERHARDT MEMORIAL AWARD

First Sgt. Leon Michael Banta of Emlenton, Pennsylvania, is a recipient of the Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award. Given in memory of Craig-Erhardt's commitment to helping military servicemembers attain their goals, this award is presented in recognition of service to others, commitment to education, and for academic, professional, and personal achievement. Banta earned a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Business and Management in 2016 with a 3.81 GPA, graduating magna cum laude.

Banta has demonstrated outstanding organizational and communication skills, and his collaborative and analytical abilities are well-respected among his colleagues. He recently provided more than 50 hours of leadership training to Republic of Georgia senior military commanders, and last year he filled an executive leadership position in a unit of 1,200 Marines, for which he received a Meritorious Service Medal.

He has volunteered multiple times for difficult duty assignments, as well as organized and participated in various volunteering activities. Recent examples include participating in a Habitat for Humanity construction project of a library for an underprivileged school in Thailand and coordinating the first-ever "Fishing for Troops" event in North Carolina. He has also pursued his own professional and educational growth, which has paved the way for other Marines to better themselves and enroll, attend, and graduate from military and private educational institutions.

Banta's commanding officer summarizes, "1st Sgt. Banta's distinguished professional and personal achievements and proven record of accomplishment while serving in the Marine Corps demonstrates his high level of intelligence, maturity, initiative, and boundless potential."



GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ronald D. Flick

CATHERINE CRAIG-ERHARDT MEMORIAL AWARD

Sgt. Maj. Ronald D. Flick of El Paso, Texas, is a recipient of the Catherine Craig-Erhardt Memorial Award. Given in memory of Craig-Erhardt's commitment to helping military servicemembers attain their goals, this award is presented in recognition of service to others, commitment to education, and for academic, professional, and personal achievement. Flick earned a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts in 2017 with a 4.0 GPA.

Flick volunteers more than 250 hours annually for U.S. Military Endurance Sports, manages the Adventure Racing Program, and assists in marketing, recruitment, and corporate partnerships in the Fort Bliss and El Paso communities. He planned, organized, and led the Fort Bliss 2017 Maltz Challenge, an event between the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. military where fallen service members are honored and remembered during an arduous eight-part workout event.

He has received many awards and decorations, including a Bronze Star medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, National Defense Ribbon, Operation Iraqi Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, United Nations ISAF medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with four devices, and the Korean Defense Service Ribbon.

He is dedicated to assisting others as he improves himself, falling back on his formal military education in adult learning concepts, experiential learning model, and experience to help his fellow students. One of the nominators commented, "Flick's attitude, enthusiasm, and accomplishments are examples that fellow students should strive to emulate."

Patricio Cardonavega

ARTHUR J. GREGG AWARD

Command Sgt. Maj. Patricio Cardonavega of Prince George, Virginia, is the recipient of the Arthur J. Gregg Award in recognition of his outstanding academic and career or professional achievement while on active duty in the U.S. military. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts in 2016 with a 3.77 GPA.

A native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, Cardonavega has been in the Army for more than 25 years. He has held many leadership positions throughout his career, including squad leader, section sergeant, team chief, quality control/quality

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

assurance inspector, platoon sergeant, first sergeant, staff sergeant major and now command sergeant major. He has received a number of awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star (with one oak leaf cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (with four oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with six oak leaf clusters), Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal (with bronze star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (with numeral 3), Overseas Service Ribbon (with numeral 4), and the NATO Medal.

One of his nominators said, “Cardonavega always puts his soldiers first...He comes with my highest recommendation for his selfless service to others, his strong academic record, and his outstanding military career of leadership and dedication to his country.”

Joseph James Davern

DWAYN HANFORD AWARD

Joseph James Davern of Pembroke, Massachusetts, is the recipient of the Dwayn Hanford Award presented to a student who has completed an undergraduate degree from the School of Public Service with academic excellence and significant community involvement. Davern earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in law enforcement and public safety in 2016 with a 3.42 GPA.

Davern works as a patrolman for the Abington Police Department. He regularly volunteers at the local high school and food pantry, and participates in different outreach activities during the holiday seasons. He strongly believes in police officers being partners with their community. As his supervisor puts it, “Officer Davern is very community minded...[he] is a kind, capable young community police officer. I can vouch for his dedication, hard work, and integrity as a patrolman...He has intense enthusiasm for the job and dedication to provide all the people living in the town of Abington with the highest quality of service at all times.”

Davern completed 65 percent of his degree with Excelsior, which is atypical of a School of Public Service student because usually most students transfer in about 65 percent of their degree credits.



GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Steven Burn

ROBERT E. KINSINGER AWARD

Steven Burn of Quarryville, Pennsylvania, is the recipient of the Robert E. Kinsinger Award, presented to a student who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement and who is involved with the nonprofit sector either as an employee or volunteer. Burn graduated in 2016 with an Associate in Applied Science in Administrative/Management Studies with a 3.95 GPA, graduating with highest honors.

Burn is the site manager at Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority where he is involved in community outreach and education, environmental compliance, safety, and information technology. He has more than 15 years of experience in the civil and environmental engineering fields, which has given him the skills needed to take on a multitude of tasks that can change daily.

His passion for his work and a desire to influence and educate the community has resulted in reaching out to more than 3,500 residents in the surrounding communities, as well as presenting in many local schools and to local civic organizations. He has conducted educational programs for local K–12 schools on the importance of waste disposal, aided in Earth Day festivities at local elementary schools, assisted with Eagle Scouts securing funds for service projects, and has arranged for local cost-free disposal for community events. Burn says that, “teaching the next generation about proper waste disposal and environmental stewardship is something that I enjoy doing.”

Robert C. Mercer

CHARLES W. LAFFIN JR. MEMORIAL AWARD

Robert C. Mercer of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is the recipient of the Charles W. Laffin Jr. Memorial Award, which is presented to a graduate in recognition of academic excellence and outstanding achievement. In July 2016, Mercer earned a Bachelor of Science in Business with a 3.80 GPA, graduating magna cum laude. He completed approximately 75 percent of his degree by proficiency examinations and distance courses.

Mercer is the director of Agency Business Initiatives at Guardian Life Insurance. He has led an effort to develop and implement a training curriculum for insurance wholesalers and, more recently, for agency operations managers. His future goals include becoming an adjunct professor at a community college. He writes that, “The experience of helping others [to] improve personally and professionally is very satisfying, and I would like to focus on doing that in a college environment in the future.”

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Joanna Lew

DR. ROBERT L. LONG AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Joanna Lew of Royersford, Pennsylvania, is the recipient of the Dr. Robert L. Long Award for Academic Excellence in Nuclear Engineering Technology in recognition of her outstanding academic and career or professional achievement in the nuclear power industry, and her membership with Alpha Nu Sigma. Lew earned a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering Technology in 2017 with a 3.66 GPA.

Lew has more than 10 years of experience in the nuclear power industry, and is an INPO-certified instructor in the systematic approach to training. She trains power plant operators in both initial and continuing training programs, and has supported curriculum review committee meetings and focused area self-assessments. She has also facilitated site leadership training and acted as a peer mentor. Lew has experience in the commercial and naval sectors.

Lew is a member of U.S. Women in Nuclear and supported the inaugural Girl Scout Nuclear Engineering badge campaign, was an INPO Journey to Excellence HIT team leader, and is a focused area self-assessment team member and document author. She completed undergraduate coursework at Villanova University from 2002–2003, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from University of Phoenix in 2008, and is pursuing a Master of Business Administration at Villanova.

Charles David Levi Wallace

ROBERT P. MAHONEY AWARD

Charles David Levi Wallace of Midwest City, Oklahoma, is the recipient of the Robert P. Mahoney Award, presented to a liberal arts graduate who completed a degree in the face of significant challenges and demonstrated a dedication to community and volunteer service. Wallace earned a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts in 2016, graduating magna cum laude.

As chief instructor of the Hoshin Dojo, Wallace focuses on training students with disabilities that limit their mobility. He also teaches victimized women self-defense, and all programs are offered at no cost to the student. His desire to help others stems from a life-changing injury he sustained during his deployment to Iraq. Initially his chances of ever walking again were slim, but through hard work and physical therapy, he is now able to be ambulatory with the use of a cane. He

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

says his goal is to teach others with disabilities “how to defend themselves and regain a sense of power and self-worth.”

Wallace often contributes his time to his community, teaching martial arts classes and self-defense seminars. In addition to his bachelor’s, he earned an Associate in Science in Liberal Arts from Excelsior in 2014. He is enrolled in the Master of Science in Management program.

Lisa S. Harvey

MILDRED L. MONTAG MEMORIAL AWARD

Lisa S. Harvey of Utica, New York, is the recipient of the Mildred L. Montag Memorial Award, presented to a graduate who has completed the Excelsior College Master of Science in Nursing program and has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and excellence in all the nursing courses, including the capstone course. Harvey earned a Master of Science in Nursing in 2017 with a 4.0 GPA.

Harvey has always enjoyed helping people and has been a nurse for more than 20 years. She became an LPN following high school and pursued her associate degree through Excelsior (then Regents College) while working at a hospital in Darlington, South Carolina, in the early 2000s. The CPNE exam “was the hardest exam” she ever took, but Harvey passed on her first try and received her associate in nursing in 2007. By 2014, she had completed her bachelor’s in nursing degree with Excelsior—during the same time her husband was pursuing his master’s in business with the College.

Harvey is a community mental health nurse at Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center and has used her degrees to advance in her career, as well as to teach at her place of employment. She also plans to teach at a local community college.

Walter W. Malone

EWALD B. NYQUIST AWARD

Walter W. Malone of Houston, Texas, is the recipient of the Ewald B. Nyquist Memorial Award, which is presented to a student who exhibits academic excellence and outstanding achievement in earning a degree through independent study. Malone graduated summa cum laude in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts with a 3.97 GPA. He completed 82 percent of his degree by proficiency exams.

GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

While working long hours in the O.R. and managing the demands of a growing family, Malone received his associate degree in nursing from Excelsior in 1998. After his son graduated from a local university in 2015, Malone's interest and appreciation for higher education was renewed; he decided to re-enroll with the College to pursue a bachelor's degree. To finish the 31 credits he needed for his degree, he took exams in subjects that both interested him and fulfilled his requirements.

Malone is a nurse administrator with UT Physicians in Houston, Texas, and enrolled in Excelsior's Master of Science in Management program. His advice to other adults looking to return to school is, "anything is possible, with persistence and patience, but you must make that first step and enroll...It really is never too late."

Brianna C. Shearer

JEAN M. SMITH AWARD

Brianna C. Shearer of Little Elm, Texas, is the recipient of the Jean M. Smith Award, presented to a student who demonstrates outstanding academic and professional achievement in the world of business. Shearer earned an Associate in Applied Science in Administrative/Management Studies in 2016 with a 4.0 GPA, graduating with highest honors.

Shearer completed her degree while balancing the demands of a full-time job, being a mother to two young children, and volunteering with their little league baseball teams. Her husband is an active-duty Navy sailor and throughout her program, Shearer encouraged many other spouses of active-duty servicemembers to pursue a degree with Excelsior.

She is the executive assistant to the CEO for Guardian Services in Dallas, Texas, and is preparing to earn other professional development credits. Several past supervisors noted her diligence and work ethic, one saying, "I always had complete confidence in her work; she understood what needed to be done, and was exceptional at proactive management of everything she touched."



GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Timothy Abbott

(Nominated by Monica Abbott)

2017 STUDENT SUPPORT AWARD

Timothy Abbott of San Antonio, Texas, is the recipient of the Student Support Award, given to a special person whose valuable assistance and encouragement significantly contributed in helping a graduate reach the goal of earning their degree. He was nominated by his wife Monica Abbott, who earned a Master of Science in Nursing with a concentration in Nursing Informatics in 2017.

Monica credits her husband Timothy with emotional support and encouragement as she worked to complete her degree. She notes that he never complained even though he worked long hours, cared for their son who has autism and daughter who has ADHD, and often prepared dinner when she worked night shifts on the weekends. She comments that Timothy was always there to read her papers, listen to her presentations, and give objective opinions without being judgmental.

“He encouraged me when things were rough and I wanted to give up or take time off,” she says. “I could not have made it through without his support, love, and encouragement.”



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes outstanding academic, professional, personal, and community contributions that are representative of our graduates. Presented to a graduate whose achievements may serve as a role model to inspire other graduates and students.

MEGHAN ELIZABETH COOK

Meghan E. Cook '94, of Saratoga Springs, New York, is the recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding academic, professional, personal, and community contributions. Cook is a program director at the Center for Technology in Government at the University of Albany, State University of New York. She is also an adjunct professor at UAlbany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy and an affiliate faculty member at Albany Law School, as part of the formal UAlbany-Albany Law School affiliation.

Cook has more than 20 years of experience working with government leaders at all levels and all over the world to foster, cultivate, and develop innovative practices in the public sector. As a sought-after speaker and facilitator, she has delivered more than 200 thought leadership and strategy development sessions for government leaders across the world, and has published many articles detailing how organizational capabilities, information policies, management practices, and technology choices intersect to shape government operations and services. She is the recipient of multiple awards, including the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Professional Service, and the University at Albany's President's Award for Excellence in Professional Service for her work with government and community leaders.

She is a co-instructor for one of the first joint courses among the University at Albany and Albany Law School called Urban Innovation and Creative Problem Solving. In this experiential learning course, public policy graduate students and law students work alongside government leaders to address the problems of blight and vacant housing in cities in the Capital Region of New York State.

Cook is a member of the Digital Government Society, an advisor to the NYS Local Government IT Directors Association, an international analyst for the Intelligent Community Forum, and a past member of the American Society of Public Administration-Empire State Capital Area. She received a Master of Science (2002) and Master of Public Administration (1996) from the University at Albany; a bachelor's in liberal studies from Excelsior College (1994), and an associate degree in broadcast communications from SUNY Adirondack (1992).

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Recognizes outstanding service to Excelsior College by a graduate whose efforts in advocacy, recruitment, or outreach may serve as a role model to others in helping the College achieve its overarching goals.

JESSICA ROSE CHEVERIE

Jessica Rose Cheverie '02, '17, of San Diego, California, is the recipient of the Alumni Service Award, recognizing outstanding service to Excelsior College by a graduate whose efforts in advocacy, recruitment, or outreach may serve as a role model to others in helping the College achieve its overarching goals.

Cheverie knew she wanted to be a nurse since age 16 and has since dedicated her life to teaching others to be advocates for patients and to give exceptional patient care. In high school, she volunteered at St. Vincent's Hospital and as an EMT. In college, she worked as a tech on a busy cardiac step-down unit, home health aide, and tutored math in LVN school. Cheverie worked as a GS civilian RN at the Naval Medical Center San Diego in labor and delivery where she was a neonatal resuscitation instructor, bereavement counselor and instructor, one of the leads in the operating room, and a charge nurse. She also did audits for the unit. Cheverie has received many awards, such as the Naval Medical Center San Diego Nurse of Quarter, several admiral awards recognizing her outstanding service, as well as the Most Professional Nurse Award from Maric College.

Currently she is part of a RN Prescription Refill Team in San Diego and received a Career Development and President scholarship from Scripps. Cheverie volunteers her time at the Third Avenue Charitable Organization, feeding the homeless and supplying them with toiletries, clothes, blankets, and other necessities. Alongside Excelsior Leadership Council Secretary Sandra Butterfield (BS '86), Cheverie hosts the Shift Report, a quarterly webinar series presented by Excelsior's Office of Alumni Affairs that explores issues nurses and healthcare workers face in the workplace.

Cheverie received her licensed vocational nursing degree from Maric College in Vista, California, in 1999, associate degree in nursing from Excelsior in 2002, and her certification in case management from the University of California San Diego in 2014. She is a 2017 bachelor's in nursing graduate from Excelsior College. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, ANIA San Diego Informatics Association, and PADI-certified divemaster. She plans to pursue her Master of Science in Nursing (Nursing Informatics) with Excelsior College.

CARRIE B. LENBURG AWARD

Presented to an outstanding nursing graduate in recognition of the accomplishments and vision of Dr. Carrie Lenburg, coordinator of the Regents College Nursing Program from 1973 to 1990. It commemorates her commitment to helping nurses attain their educational and professional goals.

This award is presented to a nurse who demonstrates a commitment to nursing education as well as academic and professional accomplishments in the field of nursing.

LEONA KONIECZNY

Leona Konieczny '82, of Newington, Connecticut, is the recipient of the Carrie B. Lenburg Award in recognition of her commitment and contributions to nursing education and for her academic and professional accomplishments. She has been a registered nurse for more than 40 years, and has been a nurse educator for almost 30 of those years.

She is on the board of directors for Family Promise of Central Connecticut, an organization that provides housing and services to homeless families, and serves on the International Education Committee at Central Connecticut State University. She has been a leader for high school and middle school students on delegations to Europe, Australia, Costa Rica, and Canada, and was part of a nursing delegation to South Africa. Konieczny led nursing students on a medical mission in Appalachia in 2016, and took students to University College Dublin in 2015 to participate in a course on nursing research. Her recent research examines the impact of service learning on intercultural sensitivity and civic engagement.

Konieczny is an assistant professor and RN to BSN coordinator for Central Connecticut State University. She recently developed an MSN program in Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing and is the MSN coordinator. She is a certified nurse educator and a certified gerontological nurse. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, Iota Upsilon Chapter-at-Large, and the American Nurses Association. Her awards include the CCSU Excellence in Teaching Honor Roll, CCCC Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Ruth M. Olson Award for Excellence in Nursing Education, and the Nightingale Award.

In addition to her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Excelsior College (1982), Konieczny earned a nursing degree from Quinnipiac University (1974), a Bachelor of Science in Human Services-Health Education from Charter Oak College (1981), a Master of Public Health from the University of Connecticut (1991), and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Sacred Heart University (2013).

C. WAYNE WILLIAMS AWARD

Named after the College's first president, this award is presented in recognition of outstanding public service and community involvement by a graduate.

TIMOTHY W. CARLISLE

Timothy W. Carlisle, '86, '03, of Martinez, California, is the recipient of the C. Wayne Williams Award, presented in recognition of outstanding public service and community involvement by a graduate. In 2000, he retired from a 20-year career in the Navy at the rank of chief petty officer, and is currently the project director for cybersecurity at San Francisco International Airport.

Carlisle serves in many non-profit organizations, including as president of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc. Mare Island Chapter, president of Paseos Homeowners Association, vice president of Education—Plane Talk Toastmasters, and secretary of California Lost Boat Memorial Fund. He previously served as a board and advisory member of Opportunity Junction, a nonprofit organization that teaches technology and life skills to women, CFO of Hyde Park at Northgate Homeowners Association, and as president of Vallejo Marina Lions Club. He is a professional member of Mensa, ISC2, ISACA, PMI, USSVI, VFW, and the Navy League.

His community service awards include U.S. Submarine Veterans Mare Island Chapter Commendations (2015, 2016), Jefferson Award Winner for his work with Opportunity Junction (2006), and Lion of the Year (1992). As the Vallejo Marina Lions Club president in 1992, his joint resolution for feeding homeless and needy people was adopted by the California Legislature, and in 1987, he developed and led an academic/tutoring program at Mare Island Elementary School that was awarded California's first-ever National PTA award.

He holds an associate degree (1986), bachelor's degree in business operations management (2003), and a bachelor's degree in computer technology (2003) from Excelsior; a master's degree in information systems and technology management (information assurance and security with distinction) from Capella University (2013); and a master's certificate in IT project management from George Washington University (2003).



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR

Jerry L. Neff, BS
Brigadier General (Ret.), ARNGUS Regional President (Ret.), M&I Bank
Bradenton, FL

MEMBERS

Helen Benjamin, PhD
Chancellor (Ret.)
Contra Costa Community College District
Dallas, TX

Terry Conry, PhD
Associate Vice President (Ret.), Finance & Administration and Chief of Staff
Ohio University
Athens, OH

Don Dea, MBA
Cofounder
Fusion Productions
Webster, NY

William G. Harris, PhD
CEO
Association of Test Publishers
Washington, DC

Debbie Dawson Hatmaker, PhD, RN, FAAN
Executive Director
American Nurses Association
Silver Springs, MD

Garry W. Jaunal, Esq.
Partner
Baker & McKenzie
Chicago, IL

Matthew Loeb, CGEIT, CAE, FASAE
Chief Executive Officer
ISACA
Rolling Meadows, IL

Michael J. Loughran, BA
President
Aon Affinity Health Care Business Unit, Aon Risk Solutions
Hatboro, PA

KH Maman, MSEE, MBA
Managing Director, Cyber Risk Services
Deloitte & Touche LLP
New York, NY

A. Frank Mayadas, PhD
Founding President (Ret.), Online Learning Consortium
Program Director (Ret.), Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Chappaqua, NY

Karim R. Merchant, Esq.
Director, Development and Volunteer Engagement
Aga Khan Foundation
Washington, DC

Mary O'Connor, PhD, RN, FACHE (Vice Chair)
Associate Professor
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Baltimore, MD

David Olikier, MA (Treasurer)
President & CEO (Ret.)
MVP Health Care
Schenectady, NY

Sharon I. Richie, PhD
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.), President & CEO,
Crossroads Care LLC
Clearwater, FL

Pamela J. Tate, MA, MS (Secretary)
President & CEO
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)
Chicago, IL

Q. Rose Wang, MS
Managing Director
Rose Wang Strategies LLC
Bethesda, MD

Khori Whittaker, MA
President & Chief Operating Officer
Lighthouse Academies
Wesley Chapel, FL

Alec Whitters
CEO and Cofounder
Higher Learning Technologies
Iowa City, IA

EX OFFICIO

James N. Baldwin, JD, EdD
President
Excelsior College
Albany, NY

W. Scott Benton, MA, ESEd, DC
Chiropractic Physician,
Thompson's Station, TN
Co-Chair,
Excelsior College
Faculty Steering Committee

Dwain Miles Hanford, MS
Team Chief, Senior Intelligence Officer,
Defense Intelligence Agency,
Springfield, VA
President,
Excelsior College
Alumni Association

CHAIR EMERITI

Arthur J. Gregg, BS
Lt. General (Ret.)
U.S. Army,
Dumfries, VA

Joshua L. Smith, EdD
Professor and Director (Ret.)
Program in Higher Education and Center for Urban Community College Leadership
New York University,
School of Education
New York, NY

Richard Yep, MPA, CAE, FASAE
Executive Director & CEO
American Counseling Association
Alexandria, VA

EMERITI

William E. Cox, EdD
President
Cox, Matthews, and Associates Inc.
Fairfax, VA

Jean M. Smith, BA
Vice President (Ret.)
J.P. Morgan Chase
Chase Community Development Corporation
New York, NY

Lawrence E. Vertucci, BA
Executive Vice President and Regional President (Ret.)
HSBC Bank, U.S.A.
Albany, NY

John R. Wetsch, PhD, PMP
IT Director, Application Service Delivery
North Carolina
Department of Revenue
Raleigh, NC

