2014–2015
HONOR ROLL OF VOLUNTEERS

Excelsior College®
EXCELSIOR COLLEGE RECOGNIZES
WITH SPECIAL THANKS
THE ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS WHO SUPPORTED THE
COLLEGE THROUGH OUTREACH, ADVOCACY, AND
ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN JULY 1, 2014,
AND JUNE 30, 2015.
As an Alumni Ambassador, you are a critical component of spreading the word about Excelsior College and you do it in a variety of ways. Whether you’re wearing your alumni t-shirt to the gym or driving around with an Excelsior sticker on your car, whether you proudly display your diploma in your office or you encourage others to complete their degrees the way you did, you are helping increase awareness of the College that helped you.

For this, and for all of the good work you do on behalf of Excelsior College, we thank you.
The volunteers who serve on the Alumni Advisory Board represent the leadership of the Alumni Association. The board comprises graduates who apply, undergo a selection process, and are elected by the alumni-at-large each spring. There are 12 seats on the board and each member serves a three-year term that is renewable once. The composition of the board strategically reflects the diversity of Excelsior's alumni population.

## 2014–2015 Alumni Advisory Board

### President

During Will's time on the board, he earned his PhD while also serving a two-year term as president—and therefore, as a trustee of the College. According to board bylaws, the president of the Alumni Advisory Board is an ex-officio member (with voting privileges) of the College’s Board of Trustees. This is unusual for a college; it demonstrates the value Excelsior holds for the voice of alumni.

### Vice President

LCDR Shannon McMillan, AS ’07, BA ’09, of Virginia Beach, VA (2010–2016)
Shannon is an active-duty member of the U.S. Navy and often participates in board teleconferences from sea as he conducts missions around the globe. He has served two terms as vice president of the board.

### Secretary

Ronald Tosto, BPT ’12, of Walnut Creek, CA (2012–2018)
A two-term secretary of the board, Ron has sent thousands of emails congratulating recently conferred students and encouraging them to attend Commencement.

Sandra Butterfield, BS in Nursing ’86, of Spring Valley, CA (2014–2017)
A lifelong nurse and adjunct nursing professor, Sandy is committed to helping nurses advance both academically and professionally.

Daniel L. Coberly, AS ’77, BS ’84, of Hazel Green, AL (2013–2016)
A veteran of the U.S. Army, Dan frequently conducts outreach to military students and alumni and cultivates graduates he meets in his government career.

Kadidia Doumbia, BS ’85, of Washington, DC (2010–2016)
A native of Ivory Coast, Kadidia is an educator with a special interest in online education issues for citizens of third-world countries. She has served on all of the board’s committees, and has chaired the nominating committee.

Jennifer Gentry, AS in Nursing ’04, BS in Nursing ’11, MS in Nursing ’15, of Portland, TX (2014–2017)
A chief nursing officer, Jennifer earned her third nursing degree from Excelsior this year.

Dwayn Hanford, BS ’05, of Springfield, VA (2012–2014)
A veteran of the U.S. Army with a military intelligence background, Dwayn is involved in advancing the mission of Excelsior’s National Cybersecurity Institute (NCI).

While attending Commencement in 2011, Adrienne signed up to be one of the College’s first Alumni Ambassadors. After fulfilling that duty, she was elected to the board where she helped grow the Ambassador program.

In Wayne’s six years on the board, he has served the Alumni Association in many ways: he has been an officer, conducted multiple webinars as part of the Alumni Speaker Series, and developed the concept for the Alumni Ambassador program.

Chief Warrant Officer 2
Katharin Rice-Gillis, AS ’09, BS ’13, MCY ’15, of Cache, OK (2015–2016)
A new board member this year, Katharin is a three-time graduate of Excelsior who has walked at Commencement twice. She serves our country in the U.S. Army.

Sheila Scott, BS ’02, of Conover, NC (2013–2016)
A U.S. Navy veteran, Sheila has served on the nominating and awards committees and has a special interest in helping her fellow veterans complete a college degree.
2015–2016 Alumni Advisory Board Members

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**Vice President**

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A new board member, Tim is a three-time graduate of Excelsior and also a U.S. Navy veteran. Prior to joining the board, Tim supported the College as an Alumni Ambassador.

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LCDR Shannon McMillan, AS ’07, BA ’09, of Virginia Beach, VA (2010–2016)
A master diver and platoon sergeant for the U.S. Army, Kane is a new board member who recently earned a master’s degree in criminal justice, his second degree from Excelsior College.

Ronald Tosto, BPT ’12, of Walnut Creek, CA (2012–2018)
A two-term secretary of the board, Ron has sent thousands of emails congratulating recently conferred students and encouraging them to attend Commencement.
Abdisalam Abdi, BS 2013 • Edmonton, AB
Abdulrahid Abubakari, BS 2014 • Bronx, NY
Andre Adams, BS 2012 • Colonie, NY
Catherine Adams, BS 2006 • Albany, NY
John Amidon, BS 1999 • Austin, TX
Terrence Anderson, BS 2014 • Junction City, KS
Jeff Beard, BS 2013 • Minooka, IL
Jemill Bland, AAS 2012 • Palm Coast, FL
David Bliss, BS 2012 • Covington, GA
Mary Beth Bobik-Kadylyak, BS 2011 • Johnson City, NY
Denise Boroughs-Fitch, BS 2014 • Woodland, CA
Mark Bowman, BS 2000 • Houston, TX
Stephanie Brugger, BS 2012 • Troy, OH
Janice Carll, AS/BS/MS in Nursing 1998/2010/2014 • Wesley Chapel, FL
Frank Cash, BS 2013 • Killeen, TX
Charles Chan, BS/BS 1989/1991 • Tuen Mun, Hong Kong
Michael Clarizio, AS/BS/MA 1983/1984/2013 • Mahopac, NY
Daniel Coberly, AS/BS 1977/1984 • Hazel Green, AL
Gregory Cole, BS 2013 • Columbia, MD
Michael Coleman, BS 2013 • Stafford, VA
Tracy Coles, BS 2014 • Hempstead, NY
Daniel Collins, AS/BS/MS in Nursing 1984/2006 • Charlotte, NC
Minnie Comithier, BA 2003/2012 • Rotterdam, NY
William Comstock, BS 2009 • Estero, FL
Gregory Conrad, AAS/BS/MBA 2010/2013/2014 • Virginia Beach, VA
Debora Coombs, AAS/BS/MS in Nursing 2008/2012/2015 • Chambersburg, PA
Pamela Cork, AS/MS in Nursing 2013 • Lillington, NC
Philip Coston, BS 1992 • Chesterfield, VA
Rebecca Crane, AS in Nursing 2003 • Bedford, IN
Cecil Crumrine, BS/MA 1986/2006 • Mesquite, TX
Eugene Cuthbert, BS 2013 • Killeen, TX
Marisa D’Aurizio, BS 2013 • Schenectady, NY
Kenneth Desforges, BS 2010 • Riverside, CA
Valerie Di Cioccio, BS 2009 • Albany, NY
Basem Dimetry, AS in Nursing 2011 • Hickory, NC
Edgardo Donovan, BS 2004 • APO, AP
Jonathan Douglass, BS in Nursing 2013 • Moncks Corner, SC
Kadidia Doumbia, BS 1985 • Washington, DC
Tasha Ellsberry, AAS/BS in Nursing 2012/2014 • Jacksonville, FL
Terry Evans, AS/BS/MBA/MS 2008/2009/2012/2014 • Perry, NY
Katina Faulk, MBA 2012 • North Wales, PA
Alecia Fiscus, BS 2002 • Lewisville, TX
Judith Fleisher, BS 2005 • Hillside, NJ
Mario Franco, BS 2014 • APO, AE
Alfreda Fraser, AS in Nursing 2013 • Morrow, GA
Joseph Frazier, BS 2003 • Manassas, VA
Michael Fritz, BS 2015 • Ft. Walton Beach, FL
Areatha Fryar, MA 2008 • Albany, NY
Paula Gabris, AS 2011 • Rensselaer, NY
Duane Garrett, BS 1990 • Azusa, CA
Juventino Gaytan, BS 2013 • Chula Vista, CA
Jennifer Gentry, AS/BS/MS in Nursing 2004/2011/2015 • Portland, TX
Michael Gladden, BS/MBA 2005/2010 • Escondido, CA
Michael Gonzales, BS 2004 • Parker, AZ
William Goranowski, BS/BS 1985/1990 • Franktown, CO
Jeffrey Grote, BS 1997 • White Plains, MD
Christine Guidry, AS in Nursing 2006 • Jennings, LA
Paulette Hamilton, MBA 2015 • Atlanta, GA
Toby Hamlin, AS 2008 • Ravena, NY
Dwaya Hanford, BS 2005 • Springfield, VA
James Hatt, BS 1995 • Silver Spring, MD
Ong Heang, BS 2004 • George Town, Penang, Malaysia
Richard Hernandez, BS 2006 • Killeen, TX
Samuel Holder, BS 2012 • Tuscaloosa, AL
Janet Ivers, AS/MS in Nursing 2005/2011 • Libby, MT
Kellie Kearsing, AA 2013 • South Glens Falls, NY
Megan Keenan, AS in Nursing 2011 • Nassau, NY
Phyllis Kuryla, BS/BS in Nursing 1988/2010 • Arlington, VA
Joseph Lee, BS 2006 • Clinton, SC
Ellen Joy Letostak, BA 2001 • Bogart, GA
Virginia Lipke, BS 2004 • Atlanta, GA
Adrienne Mason, BS 2011 • Endwell, NY
Alison Mastandrea, MRN-BS in Nursing 2014 • Roscoe, NY
Lorenzo McFarland, BS 2001 • San Antonio, TX
Shannon McMillan, AS/BS 2007/2009 • Chesapeake, VA
Mary Clare McNamee, BS in Nursing 2013 • Baltimore, MD
Gina Medina, MBA 2011 • Schenectady, NY
Samuel Miller, AS in Nursing 1996 • Ruleville, MS
Timothy Moon, AS/BS/MBA/MS 1998/2006/2009 • Henderson, NV
Michael Morgan, BS 2012 • Valencia, CA
Julia Musson, BS 1982 • Gaithersburg, MD
Patricia Nedo, AS 2012 • Broadalbin, NY
Jon Nordgren, AS in Nursing 2012 • Pleasant Prairie, WI
Wayne Oppel, BS 1991 • Winston Salem, NC
Hector Osorio Velasquez, AAS/BS 2009/2010 • Fort Belvoir, VA
Ahmad Pelzer, BS 1996 • Columbia, MO
Jose Perez, BS 1983 • Doral, FL
Douglas Perry, BS 1978 • Madison, IN
Preston Pierce, BS 1979 • Canandaigua, NY
Alex Prayson, BS 2003 • Tulsa, OK
Katharin Rice-Gillis, AAS/BS/MS 2009/2013/2015 • Cache, OK
Steven Rindahl, BA 1996 • Cibolo, TX
Tiffany Rivera, BS 2009 • San Tan Valley, AZ
Richelle Rodgers, BS 1980 • Joppa, MD
Heather Rooney, MA 2006 • Delmar, NY
Lynn Rossello, AS/AAS/BS 2000/2006/2011 • Rensselaer, NY
Nicholas Rought, BS 2015 • Vestal, NY
Gerald Russell, AS/BS 2010/2014 • Petersburg, NY
Robert Rydl, AAS 2013 • Norfolk, VA
Kathryn Saintcross, MBA 2012 • Delmar, NY
Heather Sanford, BS 2013 • Johnson City, NY
Linda Sargent, BS 2010 • Fontana, CA
Donna Schmitt, BS 2001 • Ocala, FL
Danny Scott, AS/BS 2001/2002 • Conover, NC
Shelia Scott, BS 2002 • Conover, NC
William Senn, BS 2007 • Nolensville, TN
Sandra Shepard Butterfield, BS in Nursing 1986 • Spring Valley, CA
Justin Sloan, BS 2015 • Winder, GA
Thomas Snee, BS 1998 • Burke, VA
Arthur Soule, BS 1992 • Miami, FL
Nancy Spadafora, MS 2012 • Stonington, CT
Gary Stark, BS 2003 • Waddell, AZ
Mashaundra Steele, MBA 2015 • Phenix City, AL
Christie Steier, BS in Nursing 2009 • Atlanta, GA
Raymond Stinson, BS 2005 • Killeen, TX
Timothy Stover, BS 2012 • Columbus, OH
Marcy Stryker, MBA 2012 • Delmar, NY
Carlos Suarez, BS 1996 • Bronx, NY
Lee Taylor, AAS 2015 • Fleming Island, FL
Zelia Taylor-Pearson, AAS/BS/MS in Nursing 1978/1978/2006 • Elkton, MD
Clara Teter, AAN/MRN-BS/MRN 2007/2013/2013 • Powder Springs, GA
Ronald Tosto, BPS 2012 • Walnut Creek, CA
Paul Troop, BA 1980 • Johns Creek, GA
Anna Truss, BS 2014 • Everett, WA
Douglas Tuthill, BS 2000 • Johnstown, CO
Gordon Virgil, BA 1996 • Dallas, TX
Mark Wahl, AA/MS in Nursing 2011 • Delmar, NY
Sara Waldorf, BA 2003 • Warren, MN
Melodi Warner, AS 2010 • Atlanta, GA
Christopher Warsitz, BS 2011 • Beavercreek, OH
Walter Were, BS 2005 • Pittsburgh, PA
John Wetsh, BS 1984 • Raleigh, NC
Jane Weyers, MA 2011 • Delanson, NY
Robert Williams, BS 1995 • Owego, NY
Lloyd Wimer, BS 1998 • Coatesville, PA
Bradley Woodruff, BS 2011 • Portland, OR
Daniel Woods, AAS/BS 2001/2003 • Stafford, VA
Marie Winra, BS in Nursing 2010 • Tucson, AZ
Dana Yanulavich, MA 2008 • Glenmont, NY
Laurence Yuen, BS 1995 • Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Christopher Zunker, AS 2013 • Ladson, SC
Volunteer Engagement

In February, 16 Alumni Ambassadors gathered online for the first-ever Ambassador Meet Up. The purpose of this virtual gathering was to provide a space where Ambassadors could get to know one another while also brainstorming ideas for furthering the alumni program. Participant feedback was positive and future meet ups will be held to support Ambassadors and provide an opportunity for volunteer networking.

Organization Ambassadors: Giving in the Workplace

The fall 2014 issue of Excelsior College Magazine included a call to action asking Alumni Ambassadors to help support Excelsior students and graduates working for the same employer. As the only Excelsior grad at the childcare center where she works, Ambassador Esther Stiel, BS ’13, of Brooklyn, New York, instead hosted a pizza party for her colleagues where she provided information about the College’s academic programs as a means of encouraging others to consider Excelsior as an option for degree completion.

Alumni Advisory Board Member Shannon McMillan, AS ’07, BS ’09, is always on the lookout for potential Excelsior students. As a lieutenant commander for the U.S. Navy, he has a captive audience of sailors on his ship and he considers it his mission to advise them on how they can earn a degree while in the military. He provides them with information about Excelsior’s degree programs and even guides them through the enrollment process. This year, he gave a presentation about Excelsior to nearly 30 potential students while stationed in Southeast Asia.
Being the Eyes and Ears of the College

With alumni all over the world, it’s hard to determine the needs of all Excelsior graduates. That’s why we love it when you, as volunteers, call us and say, “I have an idea for something that will benefit many Excelsior students and/or graduates.”

Such was the case last summer when Jennifer Gentry, AS in Nursing ’04, BS in nursing ’11, MS in nursing ’15, joined the Alumni Advisory Board. As a nursing administrator for the Christus Spohn hospital system in Corpus Christie, Texas, and, at the time, a student earning her third Excelsior nursing degree, Jennifer saw a need for a testing site in that area for the mandatory clinical performance in nursing exam (CPNE®). She worked with her employer and the School of Nursing to find an appropriate facility at which to establish the site. After nearly a year, Excelsior was able to establish an agreement with Christus Spohn Hospital in Alice, Texas, and this summer began hiring faculty to staff the testing facility.

Flexibility: It Goes Both Ways

Perhaps you’re one of the many Ambassadors who feel the flexibility of Excelsior’s alumni volunteer program makes it easy for you to continue giving your time and expertise when and how it works for you. Well, with a small Alumni Affairs staff, that flexibility works for us, too.

Having a cadre of volunteers to call on for expertise, often on short notice, enables us to multiply our efforts thanks to your efforts. So, whether it’s a call to Alumni Ambassador Christopher Warsitz, BS ’11, to tap his expertise on planning a road race or an email to Alumni Ambassador David Bliss, BS ’12, asking for his help in promoting a nuclear technology social media campaign, or asking Alumni Advisory Board member Sandy Butterfield, BS in nursing ’86, to share brochures about the College’s newest nursing initiative — one that helps veterans obtain a bachelor’s degree in nursing — with the veterans she teaches, we rely on your support in big ways and small.
**WHAT:** ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
**WHEN:** July 11, 2014  
**WHERE:** Excelsior College, Albany, NY  
**WHO:** For the first time, the annual meeting of the Alumni Association was held at Excelsior College. While the meeting always occurs in conjunction with the annual Commencement festivities, it had formerly been part of the New Graduate Breakfast with the Alumni Advisory Board held at The Desmond Hotel on the day after Commencement. To better accommodate the travel schedules of our graduates, the meeting was moved to the morning of Commencement Day and took place at the conclusion of the Open House at the College. This allowed many more graduates to attend and learn about the ways in which they can become involved in the Alumni Association. Per the association bylaws, the meeting was conducted by the Alumni Advisory Board, the 12-member group that serves as the leadership of the Excelsior College Alumni Association. Among the attendees was **Alumni Ambassador Tracy Coles, BS ’14**, of Hempstead, New York, who walked at Commencement to receive her degree in liberal arts.

**WHAT:** DINNER WITH 12 STRANGERS  
**WHEN:** October 30, 2014  
**WHERE:** University Club, Chicago, IL  
**WHO:** Excelsior alumni gathered in the Windy City for an intimate dinner hosted by **alumnus and trustee Garry Jaunal, BS ’92**. The group, none of whom had ever met, are not only Excelsior graduates but also donors to the College’s Annual Campaign. Excelsior College Provost Mary Beth Hanner and Director of Development Marcy Stryker attended the dinner to provide an update on the College.

**WHAT:** CENTRAL TEXAS ALUMNI RECEPTION  
**WHEN:** November 19, 2014  
**WHERE:** Courtyard by Marriott, Killeen, TX  
**WHO:** This was the fourth consecutive year that Excelsior students, graduates, staff, and guests gathered on the evening prior to the Fort Hood graduation ceremony to celebrate some of the College’s newest graduates and share stories of post-degree success. Once again, the event was hosted by CSM Richard Hernandez, U.S. Army (Ret.), BS ’06, who is the College’s education counselor stationed at Fort Hood. More than 50 people attended, including other education counselors from Fort Hood, College staff from Albany, and **Alumni Ambassadors John Amidon, BAG ’99, Frank Cash, BS ’13, and Eugene Cuthbert, BS ’13**.

**WHAT:** MEET THE DEAN ALUMNI EVENT  
**WHEN:** April 27, 2015  
**WHERE:** Carmine’s Restaurant, Washington, DC  
**WHO:** Dr. Robert E. Waters, dean of the School of Public Service, spoke with students and alumni about his vision for Excelsior’s fifth school. Also in attendance were staff from Excelsior’s DC Center, **Alumni Advisory Board member Dwayne Hanford, BS ’05**, and the following Alumni Ambassadors: **Mark Bowman, BS ’00**, **Richelle Rodgers, BS ’80**, and **Tom Snee, BS ’98**.
WHAT:  DINNER WITH 12 STRANGERS
WHEN:  June 7, 2015
WHERE:  Maggiano’s Restaurant, Atlanta, GA
WHO:  At the second event of its kind, a group of loyal alumni donors gathered for an intimate dinner hosted by Alumni Ambassador Paul Troop, BA ’80. The group was joined by Director of Development Marcy Stryker and Alumni Affairs Manager Renee Kelly in a lively discussion about the importance of supporting the College’s students and the Excelsior brand.

Additionally, alumni were invited to attend the following regional events this year and volunteers either participated or conducted outreach for these events:

- Excelsior College Washington DC Center Open House for students, alumni, and partners of the College.

- Revolutionary Learning: Using Games and Simulations to Solve Critical Issues in Public Health, a symposium sponsored by Excelsior’s Center for Game and Simulation-Based Learning in Washington, DC.

- National Cybersecurity Institute (NCI) Cyber Network networking event for cyber alumni and students in Washington, DC.

- The Skills, Qualities, and Roles of the 21st Century Public Servant, a panel discussion sponsored by the School of Public Service in Washington, DC.

- 2015 CDPHP Workforce Team Challenge road race in Albany, New York.

- School of Nursing Recruitment Event in Corpus Christi, Texas, where faculty from the School of Nursing recruited local alumni to serve as examiners at the College’s new CPNE® testing site.

- Andre Adams, BS ’12, is one member of a dedicated group of “staff grads” who are employed at the College. They work as admissions counselors, academic advisors, financial aid representatives, and unit managers, among other roles. They are always willing to reach out to the fellow alumni – on their own time – to say “thank you for making a gift to the College’s Annual Campaign” or “I hope to meet you at the next alumni event.” They frequently fill the Alumni Affairs inbox with emails that usually begin “Here’s a great grad you should know about...”