



2012–2014

HONOR ROLL OF VOLUNTEERS





**EXCELSIOR COLLEGE RECOGNIZES**

**WITH SPECIAL THANKS**

**THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SUPPORTED THE COLLEGE  
THROUGH OUTREACH, ADVOCACY, AND ENGAGEMENT  
BETWEEN JULY 1, 2012, AND JUNE 30, 2014.**

## ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

What does it mean to be part of the Excelsior College Alumni Association? It means that no matter when you graduated, and regardless of whether your diploma says Excelsior, Regents, or the University of the State of New York, you belong to an exceptional group of lifelong learners. There are no dues to pay. There is no application to submit. And yes, membership has its privileges. Alumni are invited to participate in networking events across the United States and online, as well as in a host of career services, the cost of which is subsidized by the Alumni Affairs Office. Here are some ways in which graduates connected with the College during fiscal years 2013 and 2014:



- More than 750 participated in career services (resume and cover letter critiques, career counseling appointments, career Web chats, and EC JobLinks).
- More than 300 attended alumni events around the country.
- The number of Alumni Ambassadors doubled from 2012. There are more than 100 ambassadors from 26 states and 4 countries.
- Forty-two applied for Alumni Awards.
- More than 40 had creative work published in the Excelsior ReView.
- Thirty-nine applied for a seat on the Alumni Advisory Board.

## 2012-2014 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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.

### PRESIDENT

**William Senn, BCI '07, of Nolensville, TN (2011-2015)**

According to board bylaws, the president of the Alumni Advisory Board is an ex-officio member (with vote) of the College's Board of Trustees. This is unusual for a college; it demonstrates the value Excelsior holds for the voice of the 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.

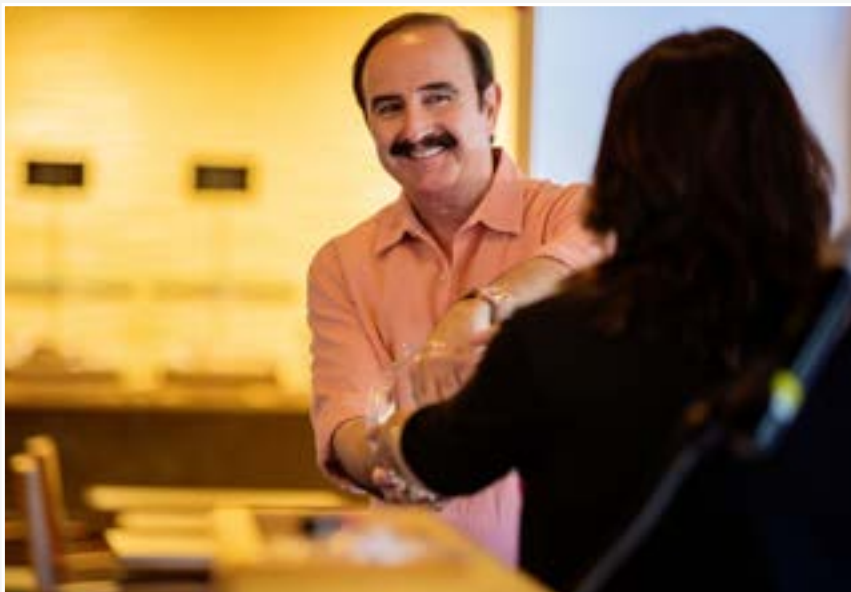
### SECRETARY

**Ronald Tosto, BPT '12, of Walnut Creek, CA (2012-2015)**

Ron came to the attention of the board in 2012 when he attended Commencement and the Graduate Breakfast hosted by the Alumni Advisory Board each year.

**Daniel L. Coberly, AS '77, BS '84, of Hazel Green, AL (2013-2016)**

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Dan hosted an alumni event in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 2014 with fellow and former board members respectively, Wayne Oppel, BS '91, and John Wetsch, BS '84.



Dan Coberly, AS '77, BS '84, one of the hosts of the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill Alumni Reception.

**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 chaired the board's nominating committee.

**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).

**Janet Ivers, ASN '05, MSN '11, of Libby, MT (2013-2016)\***

A lifelong resident of Montana,

where there is limited access to higher education in rural remote areas, Jan brought to the board her particular interest in the unique challenges faced by non-traditional learners residing in isolated areas.

**Adrienne Mason, BS '11, of Endwell, NY (2012-2014)\***

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 chaired the board's Ambassador Committee.



Alumni Advisory Board members at a board meeting in Albany, NY.

**Wayne A. Oppel, BS '91, of Winston-Salem, NC (2009–2015)**

In his fifth year on the board, Wayne has served 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.

**Danny Scott, AS '01, BS '02, of Hickory, NC (2007–2013)\***

A veteran of the U.S. Navy and two-term board member who served as vice president, Danny continues to actively recruit service members and attend alumni events around the country.

**Shelia Scott, BS '02, of Hickory, NC (2013–2016)**

A U.S. Navy veteran, Shelia is a new board member with a special interest in helping her fellow veterans complete a college degree.

**Marie Wrinn, BS in nursing '10, of Tucson, AZ (2011–2014)\***

Like many board members, Marie was a graduate award winner. She's also a prominent "face" on the College's alumni and nursing Facebook pages.

**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.

**Jennifer Gentry, AS in nursing '04, BS in nursing '11, of Portland, TX (2014–2017)**

A two-time Excelsior graduate, this year Jennifer will earn her third Excelsior degree—a master of science in nursing.



Former board member Danny Scott, AS '01, BS '02 and his wife, current board member Shelia Scott, BS '02, speak with alumni in North Carolina.

**Sara Waldorf, BA '03, of Warren, MN (2006–2013)\***

Sara completed an astounding seven-year term on the Alumni Advisory Board, including a two-year term as president.

\*Outgoing board member

## HONOR ROLL OF VOLUNTEERS

**Abdisalam Abdi, BS 2013 • Edmonton, AB**

**Andre Adams, BSB 2012 • Albany, NY**

**Catherine Adams, BS 2016 • Albany, NY**

**Richard Adams, BS 1987 • Ellicott City, MD**

**John Amidon, BAG 1999 • Austin, TX**

**Jemill Bland, AA in Business 2012 • Killeen, TX**

**David Bliss, BNX 2012 • Holly Springs, NC**

**Mary Beth Bobik-Kadylak, BS 2012 • Johnson City, NY**

**Stephanie Brugger, BS 2012 • Troy, OH**

**Sandra Butterfield, BS in Nursing 1986 • Spring Valley, CA**

**Daniel Coberly, AS 1977, BS 1984 • Hazel Green, AL**

**Gregory Cole, BS 2013 • Fayetteville, NC**

**Michael Coleman, BS 2013 • Stafford, VA**

**Tracy Coles, BS 2014 • Hempstead, NY**

**Minnie Comithier, AS 2003, BA 2012 • Schenectady, NY**

**William Comstock, BS 2009 • Estero, FL**

**Debra Coombs, AAS/BS in Nursing 2008/2012 •  
Chambersburg, PA**

**Pamela Cork, ASN 1995, MSN 2013 • Lillington, NC**

**Philip Coston, BS 1992 • Chesterfield, VA**

**Rebecca Crane, AS in Nursing 2003 • Bedford, IN**

**John Crocker, AS 1977, BA 1979 • New York, NY**

**Cecil Crumrine, BSB 1986, MAL 2006 • Mesquite, TX**

**Eugene Cuthbert, BS 2013 • Killeen, TX**

**Marisa D'Aurizio, BS 2013 • Schenectady, NY**

**Kenneth Desforges, BIX 2010 • Riverside, CA**

**Valerie DiCioccio, BS 2009 • Albany, NY**

**Basem Dimetry, AS in Nursing 2011 • Hickory, NC**

**Edgardo Donovan, BS 2004 • APO, AP**

**Jonathan Douglass, BSN 2013 • Moncks Corner, SC**

**Kadidia Doumbia, BS 1985 • Washington, DC**

**Tasha Ellsberry, AAS/BS in Nursing 2012/2014 •  
Jacksonville, FL**

**Katina Faulk, MBA 2012 • North Wales, PA**

**Alecia Fiscus, BS 2002 • Lewisville, TX**

**Judith Fleisher, BS 2005 • Hillside, NJ**

**Alfreda Fraser, AS in Nursing 2013 • Morrow, GA**

**Joseph Frazier, BS 2003 • Manassas, VA**

**Areatha Fryer, MAL 2008 • Albany, NY**

**Paula Gabris, AS 2011 • Rensselaer, NY**

**Duane Garrett, BGB 1990 • Azusa, CA**

**Jennifer Gentry, AAS/BS in Nursing 2004/2011 •  
Portland, TX**

**Michael Gladden, BMI, MGB 2005/2010 • Escondido, CA**

**Michael Gonzales, BS 2004 • Parker, AZ**

**Jeffrey Grote, BS 1997 • White Plains, MD**

**Toby Hamlin, AS 2008 • Ravena, NY**

**Dwayn Hanford, BS 2005 • Springfield, VA**

**James T. Hatt, BS 1995 • Silver Spring, MD**

**Richard Hernandez, BS 2006 • Killeen, TX**

**Janet Ivers, ASN 2005, MSN 2011 • Libby, MT**

**Kellie Kearsing, AA 2013 • South Glens Falls, NY**

**Megan Keenan, AS in Nursing 2011 • Nassau, NY**

**Phyllis Kuryla, BS 1998, BRN 2010 • Lorton, VA**

**Joseph Lee, BGB 2006 • Clinton, SC**

**Ellen Joy Letostak, BA 2001 • Bogart, GA**

**Katharine MacGregor, BA 1997 • Voorheesville, NY**

**Adrienne Mason, BS 2011 • Endwell, NY**

**Lorenzo McFarland, BS 2001 • Silver Spring, MD**

**Shannon McMillan, AS 2007, BS 2009 • Virginia Beach, VA**

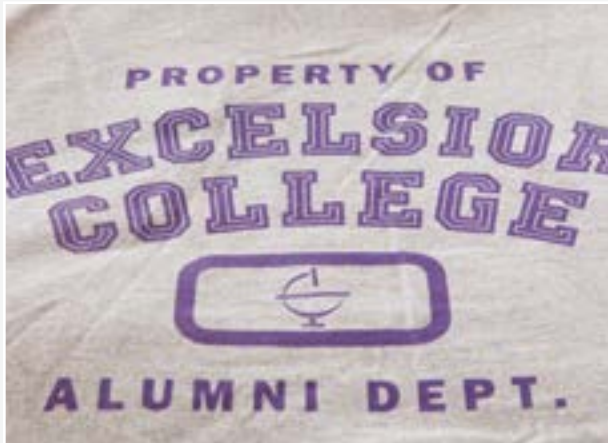
**Mary McNamee, BRN 2013 • Baltimore, MD**

**Gina Medina, MGB 2011 • Schenectady, NY**

**Samuel Miller, AS in Nursing 1996 • Ruleville, MS**

**Edgar Montalvo, BS 1997 • Tinley Park, IL**

**Timothy Moon, AS/BS/MGB, 1998, 2006, 2009 •  
Henderson, NV**



**Michael Morgan, BS 2012 • Lacey, WA**

**Patricia Nedo, AS 2012 • Broadalbin, NY**

**Jonathan Nordgren, AS in Nursing 2012 • Pleasant Prairie, WI**

**Maureen Obie, AA 2010 • Schenectady, NY**

**Virginia O'Malley, AS 2012 • Glenmont, NY**

**Wayne Oppel, BS 1991 • Winston Salem, NC**

**Hector Osorio Velasquez, AAS/BS 2009, 2010 • Triangle, VA**

**Ahmad Pelzer, BMI 1996 • Columbia, MO**

**Douglas Perry, BS 1978 • Madison, IN**

**Preston Pierce, BS 1979 • Canandaigua, NY**

**Lawrence Pleasants, AAB 2001, BS 2011 • Woodbridge, VA**

**Steven Rindahl, BA 1996 • Black River, NY**

**Richelle Rodgers, BS 1980 • Elkton, MD**

**Heather Rooney, MA 2006 • Delmar, NY**

**Lynn Rossello, AS 2000, AAT 2006, BIX 2011 • Rensselaer, NY**

**Robert Rydl, AAT 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 • APO, AE**

**Danny Scott, AS 2001, BA 2002 • Phoenix, AZ**

**Shelia Scott, BS 2002 • Phoenix, AZ**

**William Senn, BCI 2007 • Nolensville, TN**

**Tom Snee, BS 1998 • Burke, VA**

**Gary Stark, BS 2003 • Waddell, AZ**

**Luis Sterling, BS Enrolled • Windermere, FL**

**Timothy Stover, BEX 2012 • Columbus, OH**

**Carlos Suarez, BGB 1996 • Bronx, NY**

**Zelia Taylor-Pearson, AA/BS 1978, MS 2006 • Elkton, MD**

**Clara Teter, AAN/MRN-BS/MRN, 2007, 2013, 2013 • Powder Springs, GA**

**Ronald Tosto, BPT 2012 • Walnut Creek, CA**

**Paul Troop, BA 1980 • Alpharetta, GA**

**Michelle Vega, BS 2011 • San Antonio, TX**

**Gordon Virgil, BA 1996 • Dallas, TX**

**Mark Wahl, AA/MSN, 1984, 2011 • Delmar, NY**

**Sara Waldorf, BA 2003 • Warren, MN**

**Christopher Warsitz, BS 2001 • Dayton, OH**

**John Wetsch, BS 1984 • Raleigh, NC**

**Jane Weyers, MAL 2011 • Delanson, NY**

**Robert Williams, BS 1995 • Owego, NY**

**Patrick Williams, BS 2006 • APO, AE**

**Bradley Woodruff, BS 2011 • Tempe, AZ**

**Daniel Woods, AAB 2001, BS 2003 • Stafford, VA**

**Marie Wrinn, BRN 2010 • Tucson, AZ**

**Dana Yanulavich, MA 2008 • Glenmont, NY**

**Christopher Zunker, AS 2013 • Elizabeth, CO**

### Connecting Excelsior Alumni Worldwide

The chatter among Excelsior graduates is growing in cyberspace. With more than 155,000 alumni all over the world, social media platforms are excellent tools for fostering a sense of community among graduates.

Created by **Edgardo Donovan, BSL '04**, the Excelsior College Alumni Association Group



on LinkedIn boasts more than 2,700 members. This open group is a great way for graduates to connect. And like the College's Alumni Association Facebook page, it can also encourage persistence in enrolled students and help in answering the questions of prospective students. In fact, one of the College's biggest social media cheerleaders is former Alumni Advisory Board member **Marie Wrinn, BRN '10**, who posts comments and photos from every alumni event she attends, including the annual Commencement celebration.



### "Chapter" Builders

With an alumni population as transient as Excelsior's—30 percent of our graduates are affiliated with the military—building a traditional alumni chapter can be challenging. But in the small city of Binghamton, New York

(population 46,551), which has a rich cohort of Excelsior grads thanks to an academic partnership with the local community college, a traditional chapter is exactly what we have.

It began in 2010, when **Robert "Bob" Williams, BS '95**, former president of the Alumni Advisory Board, started gauging the interest of local grads he knew in the area through email, phone, and in-person outreach. A couple of years later, one of the College's first Alumni Ambassadors, **Adrienne Mason, BS '11**, teamed up with Bob to host a small alumni luncheon at a local café that was attended by alumni, students, faculty, and staff. As Excelsior's partnership with Broome Community College grew stronger, more students, alumni, and volunteers in the area were identified. **Mary Beth Bobik-Kadylak, BS '12** and **Heather Sanford, BS '13** enthusiastically called students

and alumni to drum up excitement for a second successful event. And yes, plans for a third event are in the works.

### Sharing the Alumni Perspective

As the Excelsior brand becomes more recognizable, the value of your degree increases. Therefore, as the College moves forward in its strategic planning, the voice of the alumni body is important. In 2013, the following alumni participated in the College's Strategic Planning Forum by providing feedback to the College on issues of importance to its graduates: **Dwayn Hanford, BS '05**; **Ken Desforjes, BIX '10**; **Paul Troop, BA '80**; and **William Senn, BCI '07**.



Members of the Binghamton NY Alumni Chapter at their 2013 event.





Staff alumni write thank you notes to Annual Alumni Campaign donors.

### Staff Alumni Show Their Spirit

Among the College's more than 155,000 alumni is a group of 75 graduates, closer to the College than most. They not only hold Excelsior degrees, but they also hold jobs at the College. They work as admissions counselors, advisors, financial aid representatives, and unit managers, among other roles. They have the unique perspective of knowing what it's like to be an Excelsior student—a working adult with myriad responsibilities and steadfast determination.

In fact, there's a dedicated group always willing to contact their fellow alumni—on their



Rick Hernandez welcomes alumni in Texas.

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 include: **Andre Adams, Minnie Comithier, Marisa D'aurizio, Valerie DiCioccio, Areatha Fryar, Paula Gabris, Toby**

**Hamlin, Kellie Kearsing, Katharine MacGregor, Gina Medina, Patricia Nedo, Heather Rooney, Lynn Rossello, Kate Saintcross, Mark Wahl, Jane Weyers, and Dana Yanulavich.**

Moreover, one staff grad has even started an annual tradition. For the past few years, **CSM Richard Hernandez, U.S. Army (Ret.), BSL '06**, who works for Excelsior as an education counselor at Fort Hood in Texas, has hosted a cocktail

reception on the evening prior to the Fort Hood Graduation Ceremony. It's a spirited evening wherein alumni and students gather with counselors and College staff to celebrate their accomplishments.

As staff alumni, their dual investment in the College shines through not only in time and talent, but treasure as well. In 2013–2014, this unique population contributed a total of \$18,791.85 to the Excelsior College Annual Campaign.

## ALUMNI EVENT RECAPS

### **WHAT: CAPITAL REGION ALUMNI EVENT**

**WHEN:** August 14, 2012

**WHERE:** Albany Pump Station (C.H. Evans Brewery)

**WHO:** 24 alumni, students, faculty, and staff gathered with host Megan Wilcox, AS in nursing '11, Alumni Advisory Board member, for a casual gathering with food and drinks to welcome the newest class of graduates and share Excelsior stories.

### **WHAT: CENTRAL TEXAS ALUMNI EVENT**

**WHEN:** November 14, 2012

**WHERE:** Shilo Inn Suites, Killeen, Texas

**WHO:** More than 50 Excelsior alumni, students, staff, and guests gathered for a cocktail reception hosted by Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hernandez, U.S. Army (Ret), BSL '06. The event took place on the eve of the annual Fort Hood commencement ceremony, affording the opportunity for alumni and students to meet some of our newest military graduates. Attendees included Alumni Ambassador Michelle Vega BS '11 and several Fort Hood education counselors who turned out to celebrate and support Excelsior's successful grads. More photos available at [www.facebook.com/ECalumni](http://www.facebook.com/ECalumni).

### **WHAT: PHOENIX ALUMNI RECEPTION**

**WHEN:** February 10, 2013

**WHERE:** Phoenix Airport Marriott

**WHO:** Nearly 40 alumni, students, staff, faculty, and prospective students gathered for an afternoon reception hosted by the Alumni Advisory Board. Class years ranged from 1975 to 2012 and graduates shared many diverse and inspiring stories about how Excelsior helped them achieve their educational and professional goals. Among the attendees was Alumni Ambassador Brad Woodruff, BS '11; faculty members Dr. Anton Camarota (School of Business & Technology) and Karen Faith, MA (School of Liberal Arts); and Nancy Ondra, baccalaureate online coordinator for the School of Nursing.

### **WHAT: BINGHAMTON, N.Y. ALUMNI RECEPTION**

**WHEN:** October 30, 2013

**WHERE:** Lost Dog Café, Binghamton, N.Y.

**WHO:** Twenty alumni, students, faculty, and staff joined former Alumni Advisory Board president Robert Williams, BS '95 and current Alumni Advisory Board member Adrienne Mason, BS '11 for an hors d'oeuvres reception to meet Excelsior alumni and students in the area. Terri Faddon from Broome Community College, one of Excelsior's community college partners, joined the group to connect with some of her advisees and BCC grads who went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees from Excelsior.

### **WHAT: CENTRAL TEXAS ALUMNI RECEPTION**

**WHEN:** November 13, 2013

**WHERE:** Shilo Inn Suites, Killeen, Texas

**WHO:** More than 50 alumni, students, and staff gathered for a cocktail reception hosted by Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hernandez, U.S. Army (Ret.), BSL '06. The event took place on the eve of the annual Fort Hood commencement ceremony, affording the opportunity for alumni and students to meet some of our newest

military graduates. Attendees included former Alumni Advisory Board president John Amidon, BA '99 and U.S. Department of Defense education counselors from Fort Hood who turned out to celebrate and support Excelsior's successful grads.

### **WHAT: WASHINGTON, D.C. ALUMNI RECEPTION**

**WHEN:** February 12, 2014

**WHERE:** Excelsior's Washington, D.C. Center

**WHO:** Nearly 30 alumni gathered in the nation's capital as one of winter's worst snowstorms moved up the East Coast. Dozens of other alumni from the D.C. metro area who planned to attend were unable to make it due to the impending storm. But those who gathered found warm camaraderie in Excelsior's Dupont Circle facility, as they shared inspiring stories about how Excelsior helped them achieve their educational and professional goals. The event was hosted by Harry Kantrovich, director of Excelsior's Washington, D.C. Center, and attended by Alumni Advisory Board members Kadidia Dombia, BS '85 and Dwayn Hanford, BS '05.

### **WHAT: SAN DIEGO ALUMNI RECEPTION**

**WHEN:** March 2, 2014

**WHERE:** Hyatt Regency Mission Bay

**WHO:** More than 30 alumni, students, and staff gathered for an afternoon reception hosted by Alumni Ambassador Ken Desforges, BIX '10. Class years ranged from 1972 to 2013 and graduates shared many diverse and inspiring stories about how they discovered Excelsior. Among the attendees were Alumni Advisory Board members Ron Tosto, BPT '12 and Marie Wrinn, BS in nursing '10.

### **WHAT: CAPITAL REGION ALUMNI EVENT**

**WHEN:** August 6, 2013

**WHERE:** Bailey's Cafe, Saratoga Springs, NY

**WHO:** More than 20 alumni from the '80s, '90s, and '00s joined students, faculty, and staff for a casual reception where they shared inspiring stories. Attendees included several staff members who are also Excelsior graduates.

### **WHAT: RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL ALUMNI RECEPTION**

**WHEN:** June 1, 2014

**WHERE:** Embassy Suites Brier Creek

**WHO:** More than 30 alumni and students from the Research Triangle gathered for an afternoon reception hosted by Trustee Emeritus John Wetsch, BS '84, and Alumni Advisory Board members Dan Coberly, AS '77, BS '84, and Wayne Oppel, BS '91. Graduates shared inspiring stories about how they discovered Excelsior. Among the attendees were Alumni Advisory Board members Dwayn Hanford, BS '05, and Shelia Scott, BS '02; former Alumni Advisory Board member Danny Scott, AS '01, BS '02; and Alumni Ambassadors David Bliss, BNX '12, and Gregory Cole, BS '13.





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