

Commencement

SPRING SEMESTER 2020



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

May 9, 2020





National Anthem

by Francis Scott Key

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Alma Mater

by Fred Lewis Pattee

For the glory of old State,
For her founders, strong and great,
For the future that we wait,
Raise the song, raise the song,

Sing our love and loyalty,
Sing our hopes that, bright and free,
Rest, O Mother dear, with thee.
All with thee, all with thee.

When we stood at childhood's gate,
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,
Dear old State, dear old State.

May no act of ours bring shame
To one heart that loves thy name,
May our lives but swell thy fame,
Dear old State, dear old State!

DEAN'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the College of Education family at Penn State, I extend a sincere congratulations and best of luck to the College's Class of 2020.



I understand that this academic year took an unexpected turn to remote instruction, depriving graduating students of many of the opportunities and end-of-year rituals. You didn't get to say an in-person good-bye to your friends and faculty members. The usual on-campus activities did not happen, and even commencement has to be virtual – for now.

Yes, there has been a lot of loss this spring due to the impacts of COVID-19. At the same time, there is a lot to celebrate. When we switched to remote learning mid-semester, your collective response was exemplary. While the situation has been far from normal, you all worked hard to normalize the current operations. You have been flexible and worked hard to adapt your learning to this new environment. You all made great sacrifices and adjustments, and demonstrated the perseverance and the drive to make it to the finish line and graduate, and I could not possibly be more proud of you. Your resilience and ability to come together as a community and help each other demonstrates what #WeAre means, and that truly is inspiring.

While all graduations are special, this graduation is especially personal for me, as it is my first as the dean of the College of Education. Over the course of the past year, I have had the privilege to learn about the power and impact of the College and its constituent members. This process has made it clear that each of us – the graduating students, faculty, staff, parents and friends – will be inextricably bound together by the mutual bond of Penn State.

As lifetime members of the College of Education, regardless of our specific connection to Penn State, we all have the opportunity to enrich the lives of those around us. Graduating students, as you embark upon and progress through your careers, I urge you to always remember this connection and why you chose your respective professions and the sacrifices that you endured in order to make it happen: to serve our communities and improve the quality of life of their members with compassion, honesty and integrity through education. You have been exceptional representatives of the College and University. I have no doubt that you will continue to serve as incredible ambassadors for the College by building upon our reputation for excellence.

I would also like to give special thanks to the parents, spouses, children and friends of our graduates for their patience, understanding, sacrifices and support – both moral and financial – during these challenging, but rewarding, years at the College. I hope you relish in the shared feeling of pride in what your graduate has accomplished and the abundant opportunities ahead.

In the coming years, I would ask that you not forget Penn State, the College of Education, former professors, and fellow and future Nittany Lions. I encourage you to not only give back to the College by supporting College activities, programs and scholarships, but also by keeping us updated on the many achievements you will experience in your careers and personal lives. We will always take great pride in your achievements.

And I encourage you all to return to campus when the University is able to recognize your achievements in person.

Congratulations again to the graduates of our programs. The entire Penn State College of Education family is very proud of you! #WeAre

Take care and stay in touch,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi A. Janss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.
U.Ed. EDU 20-92

Commencement Speaker | *K.B. Strawder*



Motivational speaker **K.B. Strawder Jr.** has become a passionate and dedicated public speaker, radio/TV personality, business consultant and author. Raised with a strong work ethic, Strawder entered the workforce at age 15, and worked more than 15 jobs before the age of 20.

He then enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he quickly excelled in ranks as a Military Police

Officer.

During the next several years, Strawder experienced a great deal of hardship with family, friends, love, health and his faith in God. As a result, he transitioned out of the military and prayed for his purpose so that he could live better.

In the midst of facing difficult circumstances, Strawder started Live Better Inc., a company he formed from his desire to find his own purpose in life and to show others how to live purposeful lives. His company provides materials, workshops and personal/professional development programs geared toward individuals,

companies and organizations helping people find their passion to live better for their purpose in life.

Being a full-time entrepreneur has enabled Strawder to travel across the nation speaking, teaching and preaching to generations of people from within the school systems, churches, colleges and the corporate world.

His entrepreneurship has thrived from offering services including life coaching, public speaking, business consulting, community partnerships and Real Talk seminar sessions that help promote ways to deal with and overcome the tumultuous, troubling issues of life.

Strawder is best known for his ability to deliver messages of true meaning while utilizing powerful delivery and providing new insights to teach on multiple topics of discussion in the everyday purposes of life.

His message is simple: "Find your purpose to serve, not just a lifestyle to live." His message is about purpose being a priority, serving with inspiring passion, maintaining perseverance in every circumstance, and helping to change lives for the better.

Strawder also launched The Live Better Foundation, KB Strawder Enterprises, KB Strawder Ministries and Yes Sir, a young men's mentorship program. His first of four published book series will be released this year. Strawder currently resides in Houston, Texas.

College Student Marshal | *Shannon Walker*

Shannon Walker has been selected as the College of Education's student marshal for Penn State's spring 2020 Commencement ceremony, which will be held virtually at 2 p.m. May 9.

Walker selected Efrain Marimon, assistant professor of education, to escort her as the College's faculty marshal. Stephanie Hopkins has served as her academic adviser.

From Furlong, Pennsylvania, Walker has been on the dean's list since fall 2016. She is graduating with a 4.0 GPA, with a bachelor of science in elementary and early childhood education and minors in special education, education policy studies and theatre. She also is in the Schreyer Honors College.

Walker was a first-grade student teacher from August to November 2019 at Strodes Mills Elementary in the Mifflin County School District. Her experiences there included teaching research-based curriculum; developing a writing unit and lesson plans for all subject areas; and participating in schoolwide and professional development training opportunities. She finished her student teaching abroad in Thessaloniki, Greece, where she assisted English teachers for grades one to 11.



She also has been a Community Education Extended Learning support staff and a substitute teacher in the State College Area School District; a summer instructor at a community school musical theatre camp in the Central Bucks School District; and a classroom support teacher at the Bennett Family Center on the Penn State University Park campus.

Walker has held leadership roles in the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association and the Penn State Thespian Society. She was a fellow for the D.C. Social Justice Fellowship in 2018. She also danced in THON this year.

After graduation, Walker plans to work in a public school as an elementary teacher. She also hopes to work with children's theatre programs, either in a school or community setting.

Commencement Program

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Amina Faye '20, Musical Theatre,
College of Arts and Architecture

PRESIDING

Eric J. Barron, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
President of The Pennsylvania State
University

SPECIAL REMARKS

President Barron

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nicholas P. Jones, B.E., M.S., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost of
the University

AUTHORIZATION TO CONFER DEGREES

Mark H. Dambly, B.S.
Chair, Board of Trustees

RECOGNITION OF MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

Penn State Students

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Presiding: Provost Jones
Conferring: President Barron

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Randolph B. Houston Jr., B.A., J.D.
President, Penn State Alumni Association

SPECIAL THANKS

Penn State Students

PENN STATE ALMA MATER

Penn State Students
Penn State Blue Band

College and Program Marshals

College Marshal

SHANNON WALKER

ESCORT: **Efraín Marimon**, B.A., B.S., M.S. Ed., J.D., LL.M.

Program Marshals

Education and Public Policy

EMMA ROHAN

ESCORT: **Kai Schafft**, B.A., M.A., M.S., Ph.D.

Elementary and Early Childhood Education

KATHERINE KOSICK

ESCORT: **Kathleen Sillman**, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

ERIKA FELKER

ESCORT: **Paula Marden**, B.S., M.Ed.

Middle Level Education

OLIVIA SIMONCIC

ESCORT: **Fran Arbaugh**, B.S., M.Ed., Ph.D.

Rehabilitation and Human Services

BRYNN PARKIN

ESCORT: **Jessica Henry**, CRC, LPC, Ph.D.

Secondary Education

MADISYN AMAN

ESCORT: **Albert D'Ambrosia**, Ed. Adm., M.Ed.

Special Education

STEPHANIE MAGNOTTA

ESCORT: **Jeremy Moeller**, Ph.D.

World Languages Education

COLIN MURPHY

ESCORT: **Mindy Kornhaber**, B.A., M.Ed., Ed.M., Ed.D.

College Leadership

Kimberly A. Lawless, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Dean,

College of Education

Gregory J. Kelly, B.S., Ph.D.

Senior Associate Dean for Research, Outreach, and
Technology,
College of Education

Rayne A. Sperling, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Associate Dean, Undergraduate and Graduate Studies,
College of Education

Maria J. Schmidt, B.S., M.Ed.

Assistant Dean, Education and Social Equity,
College of Education

Undergraduate Degree Recipients

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. This list was produced April 10, as an unofficial list of graduating students and those earning honors.

Distinction may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. This group is made up of those students who have completed the required number of credits at the University and who are in the top 12 percent of their graduating class in their college. The 12 percent is divided into 2 percent SUMMA CUM LAUDE, 4 percent MAGNA CUM LAUDE and 6 percent CUM LAUDE. If you have question about your name, degree or distinction listed in this program, please reach out to Samantha Roan at smk5364@psu.edu. Congratulations on your achievements!

Education and Public Policy (B.S.)

This degree prepares students to enter professional careers in educational organizations, government, community development, public service, non-profits, consulting, philanthropy, and interest groups for the betterment of a diverse and democratic society.

Christopher Jason Carver
Dasol Choi
Qianzi Cong
Matthew Corcoran
Rachel Cvitanovich
Dylan Andrew Hamilton
Rayna Isabel Landa
Joie Nicole Nearn
Danieltta Pantoe
Rafael Prado Martinez
Emma Lee Rohan^{S3}
Anna M Schoen
Claire Marie Talley
Sarah K Witherow

Elementary and Early Childhood Education (B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates to teach children in preschool through fourth grade.

Courtney Ann Antonelli
Julia Elizabeth Baird
Stephanie Paige Bernstein
Taylor Leilani Berry

Emily Blank
Katelyn Nicole Boardman
Leslie Julia Boyer
Emma Elizabeth Bressler
Peter James Bridgewater
Hannah Jean Brodish
Sydney J Brouse
Emily Elizabeth Buitekant
Kai Ayanna Butler
Allison M Caruso
Cassandra Marie Caruso
Carley Cassandra
Taylor Elise Clark²
Kathleen McGinley Crossey³
Samantha Christine Dallier
Emma Kathleen Davin
Caroline Audrey Dawson
Lauren Dizenzo³
Sarah Kirkland Diszler
Julia E Eneboe³
Cassandra Marlene Essis
Kennedy Eyer
*Erika P Felker*¹
Isabelle S Ferber
Kaitlyn Jordan Ferensic
Erin Donohue Fiorillo
Jaclyn H Handelman
Natalie Lynn Handley
Morgan Campbell Healey
Erin E Helbig
Ian Thomas Herm
Morgan Hesse
Julia Claire Horwitz
Julia Aileen Howard
Alyssa Athanasia Ioannou

Taylor Jackson
Kelly M Jonovich
Emily Wynn Kalish
Lia Khatchadourian
Brooke Kieserman
Sarah E Klukaszewski²
Eva Kathryn Klukiewicz
Katherine Diane Kosick¹
Kristin Clare Krause
Ashley Kuhn
MaryKate Elizabeth Leinhos²
Alison Lightfoot
Sarah Elizabeth Long²
Rebecca Lucas
Madison Mary Lydon
Molly Lynch
Melanie Marcano
Gabriela Elaine Marsh
Julia Anne Marullo
Erin Mathis
Lea Grace McCartney
Megan Elizabeth McCluskey
Taylor M McDevitt
Lauren Nicole McGregor
Abigail Joan McGurrin
Emily Mairead McKeown
Melynda Rose McKinney
Kristen Rose McNamara
Marisa B Meyers
Hayley Victoria Miller
Tori Drew Millman
Rebecca Emily Mugrage
Braden H Neal
Kavenie Mae Newhart
Hallie Madison Newman

Carly Jean Opar
 Kailey Erin Ormsby³
 Gabriella Theresa Orsini
 Emma Mary Pacifico
 Jennifer Elizabeth Panny
 Alyssa Marie Perschino
 Carly Anne Pfaff
 Lexi Principe
 Shannon Irene Quigley
 Mary Elizabeth Raabe
 Marielle Christina Ramp
 Gabrielle Rapone
 Brandon Lee Reed-Porter
 Caroline Richards²
 Alison Kendall Root
 Rachel Sari Rubinstein
 A'Nasia Evette Rudolph
 Faith AnnScanlan
 Kyra Schaeffer
 Hayley Grace Schlosser
 Emily Lauren Schwarz
 Nicole Cari Seraita
 Alyssa-Brian Sibiga³
 Allison Silano
 Adam Michael Simonson
 Elizabeth Nicole Smart
 Lonni Blair Sopinsky
 Rachel E Sporer⁵
 Caitlin Ashley Stigall³
 Carolyn Elizabeth Stoughton^{S2}
 Carolyn Stout²
 Brianna Nicole Torrissi
 Colleen Mary Tracy
 Alea Troup
 Devon Marie Viola
Shannon L Walker^{S1}
 Grace Michele Wanamaker
 Brittany LeeAnne Wangel
 Carolyn Whitlock
 Kaitlyn Elizabeth Wiesner
 Brooke A Wolf
 Sydney S Wolff
 Bailey Renee Yeagley
 Gabrielle L Yom
 Abigail Hayes Zarro

Middle Level Education (B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates to teach all subjects in grades four to six and mathematics, English or social studies in grades seven and eight.

Hannah M Bodnar
 Matthew James Boyle
 Cahil James Carey
 Seth Ryan Cocolin
 Clarisse Carolyn Cofrancesco³
 Casey Ann Cook
 Kevin Joseph Cummings
 Caroline Anne Daly
 Levi Thomas Davis
 Bethany A Dudeck
 Rachael Pearl Ewing
 Olivia Gettle²
 Juliana Gabrielle Gidaro
 Spencer James Hay
 Connor Thomas Hemdal
 Alison Hickey
 Carly Anne King
 Lauren Nicole Kirkman
 Michael William Komorowski
 Alyssa Kruman
 Abigail Marissa McMenamini
 Bryan Christopher Murphy
 Taylor Constance Randolph
 Sarah Elizabeth Read
 Matthew James Renninger
 Brady William Sahn
 Breanna Francesca Saulsbury
Olivia Claire Simoncic³
 Isabella Speer
 Jillian Testa
 Katie Marie Wasilko
 Claire Marie Watsik
 Gianna Marie Ziccardi

Rehabilitation and Human Services (B.S.)

These degrees prepare candidates for a variety of positions in rehabilitation, mental health, welfare, and employment services or for graduate work in the helping professions.

Bayleigh Noelle Adams
 Brianna Moriah Bicky
 Kaleigh Erin Bieling
 Emma Rose Brown
 Ford Koyama Carlson
 Faith T Cole
 Marissa N Coleman
 Nikki Renee Coleman
 Hunter M Datres
 Sarah Elizabeth Dickey
 Lindsay Frances DiGiorgio
 Kayla Nicole Evans
 Rachel Lynn Fisher
 Madison Rose Glew
 Emily G Guido
 Melissa Catherine Guina
 Abigail Hanlon
 Emma Mathias Islinger
 Cassidy Kauffman
 Kathleen Keys
 Kyla Kierstein
 Juan Villagomez Lemus
 Emily Ann Leniart
 Emma Taylor Lutzke
 Raquel Angelina Mabry
 Heather P Macdougall
 Julia Macgregor
 Matthew A Maclay
 Nicolette Macri
 Emily Elizabeth Madeira
 Taylor S McClelland
 Leah Isabella McCloy
 Rachel Millan
 Olivia Michelle Mitchell
 Shannon Victoria Moore
 Kelsey Joan Mullen
 Gabrielle Ivy Mund
 Angela Marie Myers

Maggie Jo Noll
Thomas Peter Novak
*Brynn Gabrielle Parkin*²
Yumei Qing
Erin Nicole Reed
Rebecca Leigh Reeves³
Brenna Forster Richards³
Jacquelyn Mary Schwartz
Abigail Spor
Kendyl D Stewart
Tianna Heather Thorpe
Alaina K VanDyke²
Sophia Vario
Amanda Christine Wallace
Abigail Ireland Welch
Fanwen Zhang

Secondary Education (B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates for teaching positions related to their content areas in grades 7-12. Candidates pursue one or more of the following teaching options: Biological Science, Chemistry, Citizenship Education, Earth and Space Science, English/Communication, Environmental Education, General Science, Mathematics, Physics, and Social Studies.

*Madisyn E Aman*²
Taylor Aisha Balliet⁵
Anais Bailey Biesecker
Cullen J Browell
Ian Byron Brumbaugh
Hannah Chisler
Anna Elizabeth Ciambotti
David Carl Columbus
Audrey Willow Cromell
Luke Joseph Darrup³
Catherine Delsandro
Talia Grace Diclaudio
Cassandra Lyn Diehl²
Tiffany Domingues
Lucinda Valerie Ellis
Jill Lynn Farina
Nicholas Joseph Franz

Matthew Herman
Thomas Adam Holodick
Nathan Daniel Kerlin
Dillon Thomas Madigan
Bailey Noelle Matush
Barrett Perry McMurtry
Trinity Middlebrooks
Maxine Eiley Montany
Molly Elizabeth Mowatt
Abbilyn Irene Moyer
Samantha Niedziejko
Claire Gertrude O'Dea
Andrew Robert Page
Cara Pakes
Carina Papa
Hailey Brooke Penuel²
Sarah Michele Petri⁵
Madison Paige Peyton
Grant Troxell Pusey
Madeline Putterman
Jeffrey Qiu
Meaghan Reed
Anthony Robert Romeo
Joshua I Rosenbaum³
Abigail Rummel³
Sivonn Simonpur
Jennifer Elizabeth Snyder²
Justin Patrick Staub
Brady Scott Thomas
Alyssa Weidlich
Emilee West
Colleen Patrice Weston

Special Education (B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates for teaching individuals with special learning needs, at any age or ability level.

Megan Ann French
Tyler Kemp
Brady Robbins Kimble Emily
M Klingler
Stephanie Ann Magnotta
Michelle Elizabeth Patlakh

Madison Lane Schulte
David Allan Shorten Jr.
Sydney Reann Trimmer
Amanda Jane Wieler

Workforce Education and Development (AS, B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates to teach a specific trade or skill in a vocational-technical school, trade school, or community college, or to coordinate or supervise in a vocational education setting. Candidates choose from three options: Health Occupations Education, Industrial Education, or Occupational Home Economics Education, all of which lead to a teacher certificate; or a non-certificate Industrial Training option. Each degree candidate has also shown competency in their respective trade or skill.

Justin David Bierly

World Languages Education (B.S.)

This degree prepares candidates for K-12 teaching positions or other employment fields related to their content language area, which may be French, German, Latin, Russian, or Spanish.

Colin Morrissey Murphy
Gabriella Alejandra Rivera
Corchado

1 = Summa Cum Laude

2 = Magna Cum Laude

3 = Cum Laude

S = Schreyer Honors College

Bold = College Marshal

Italic = Program Marshal

The College of Education

Penn State's College of Education was established in 1923 by then-president John Thomas and was directed by its first dean, Will G. Chambers. Its mission is to deepen and extend knowledge about the formation and utilization of human capabilities. Kimberly A. Lawless began her tenure as dean in fall 2019.

Its academic programs are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and accredited nationally by organizations such as the American Psychological Association (APA), the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE), and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

The College has been consistently ranked among the top colleges and universities among more than 1,400 education institutions in the country.

This year, the College enrolled more than 1,900 undergraduate students at all campuses. It provides teacher preparation in 20 specialty areas, with additional programs in Rehabilitation and Human Services and Education and Public Policy. More than 320 student-teachers were placed in schools this academic year in Pennsylvania and abroad.

This year, more than 600 graduate students took courses in 12 fields of study. U.S. News & World Report ranks 10 of the College's graduate programs in the top 15 of their

respective program rankings, with four programs in the top 10. The College has approximately 56,000 living alumni.

The College's endowment exceeds \$58.3 million, and last year, Education students received about \$1.6 million in scholarships.

The College is the recipient of several large, multi-year grants, including Quality Talk, an innovative, teacher-facilitated discourse model that promotes high-level comprehension of text; Supporting Early Adolescents' Learning and Social Success (SEALS), which helps teachers in urban schools support their students who are at-risk for school adjustment difficulties; and a grant that identifies risk factors for ADHD diagnosis in U.S. schoolchildren and the predicted effects of treatments they receive for the disorder.

The College's faculty members serve as members of panels, governing boards for state and national organizations, and editorial boards for major journals. The faculty has received five Fulbright awards in the last seven years. College faculty have editorial responsibilities for more than 33 major journals in education and counseling, including the American Journal of Education.

Penn State has student teaching sites at international locations, partnership agreements with 17 institutions in 36 countries, and 208 international students currently enrolled.



WELCOME TO THE PRIDE!

Congratulations on your graduation, and welcome to the Penn State Alumni Association —the largest and most powerful alumni network in the world.

New graduates receive a **complimentary one-year membership** in the Penn State Alumni Association.

As you enter the pride, you'll join the ranks of alumni who keep their connection to Penn State strong through membership. We encourage you to stay connected and learn more about the 30+ benefits that are included with your membership.

Membership materials, including your membership card, will be mailed to you after graduation. Benefits are available to you immediately upon receiving your membership card.

Exclusive Member Benefits

CAREER AND EDUCATION



- **Alumni Career Services:** Attend premium Alumni Career Service events for free or at a substantial discount.
- **Discounts on Kaplan Test Preparation Services**
- **Alumni Library Online:** Exclusive access to Penn State Libraries Digitized Collections and University library databases.

ALUMNI EMAIL



Members of the Alumni Association can sign up for a **personal Penn State email account** (@alumni.psu.edu). Accounts are hosted by Google for Education and also include **unlimited online storage** and a collection of digital tools.

DISCOUNTS



Members receive **access to discounts** including travel and merchandise at Penn State Bookstore campus locations. They also receive access to discounted health, auto, renters, home, life, long-term care, and pet insurance.

Additional benefits include early invitations to Alumni Association events, access to the Alumni Directory, publications including the *Penn Stater* magazine, and much more!

To access a full list of membership benefits and to find your local Penn State Alumni Association chapter, visit:

alumni.psu.edu/newalumni

