



125TH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

VIRTUAL GRADUATE SPRING CEREMONY



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Fitchburg State University and our 125th commencement exercises. Although pandemic restrictions led us to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates virtually, we know the hard work and sacrifices made to get to this day were very real. To the graduates, this is your moment to shine!

Our graduates exemplify the university motto, *perseverantia*—perseverance. Commencement signals the successful completion of an important goal, as well as the beginning of new chapters and challenges. I encourage graduates to savor their accomplishments and their memories of life spent in this academic community. The graduates have not reached this milestone on their own. Let us also recognize the spouses, parents, partners, family members, friends and loved ones who have provided the support and encouragement that helped make the graduates' success possible. If you are one of these participants today, I hope these exceptional students are inspiring a great deal of joy and family pride.

Graduates, the diploma you earn today represents your completion of a course of study, as well as your commitment to pursuing your personal and career goals. This chapter of your story is just beginning and we are honored that Fitchburg State will forever stand as a key chapter.

In the years to come, I hope you will remain actively engaged with the university and help to shape the direction for future generations to come. As alumni, you are now part of our extended family worldwide. In times of crisis and times of triumph, we will find a way to be together, to be stronger despite any physical distances. Fitchburg State will always be your home.

Richard S. Lapidus
President

125TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Virtual Graduate Spring Ceremony

Fitchburg State University Chamber Choir

“America the Beautiful”

This song was composed by the Canadian-American Black composer
R. Nathaniel Dett in 1918, during the midst of another pandemic.

Words by Katherine Lee Bates (1893); Conducted by Dr. Jonathan Harvey

Welcome to Convene the Ceremony

Dr. Alberto J.F. Cardelle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Commencement Remarks

Dr. Richard S. Lapidus, President

Graduate Student Leadership Award

Mr. Christopher S. Brooks, Master of Business Administration

A Falcon's Story

Mr. Foster J. Maniabre, Master of Business Administration

Congratulations from the Board of Trustees

Ms. C. Deborah Phillips, Chair

Congratulations from the Dean of the School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education

Dr. Becky Copper-Glenz

Acknowledgement of Degree Recipients

Dr. Franca Barricelli, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Nancy Murray, Dean, School of Business and School of Education

Dr. Margaret Hoey, Dean, School of Health and Natural Sciences

Congratulations and Well Wishes

Department and Program Chairs

Congratulations and Welcome to the Alumni Family

Mr. James Walsh, Class of 1975

Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees

Ms. C. Deborah Phillips, Chair

Ms. Lynn M. Barrieau, Vice Chair

Mr. David C. Tiernan, Clerk

Dr. Michael Fiorentino, Jr.

Mr. Donald R. Irving

Ms. Martha Nicholson

Mr. Frank M. O'Donnell

Mr. Steven Olson, Student Trustee

Ms. Karen Spinelli

Ms. Carolyn E. Crowley Stimpson

GRADUATE DEGREES

School of Arts and Sciences

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Jessica Ann Bibeault
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

Mary Catherine Fitzgerald
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Tatiana Martins
MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Laura Michelle Storm
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Arts

ENGLISH

Andrew P. daSilva
BREWSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kellyn Marie Welch
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Arts in Teaching

ENGLISH

Nicole Flood
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Education

ARTS EDUCATION

Shelly Fortin Saben
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

The list of candidates was prepared before final grades were reported and inclusion herein does not constitute evidence of graduation. Conversely, the absence of a student's name from this list does not mean that the person will not be awarded a degree.

Master of Science

APPLIED COMMUNICATION

Ronald Campbell
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Anthony A. Crowley
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Tanya Martine Hoos Crowley
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Renee Rosaria Fratantonio
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Demetra Panagiota Zouzas
CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

COUNSELING

Chloe Yan Anderson
SHELburne FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS

Katharine Ball
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer Elizabeth Beckford
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Jamie Lee Marie Brito
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Luiza Navarro Camelo
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Yaileen Celado
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathleen M. Currie
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Marie Haley
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah LeeAnn Henry
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Ellen Scagel Honsa
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Haylie J. Kelley
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephanie G. Kerrigan
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristy Lynn Landine
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Katherine M. Melican
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Carissa Elise Mrouse
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristin R. Phelps
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Laura J. Polizoti
STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Seneva Miller Sheehan
BOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Amber N. Van Vloten
BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Ennis Rowe Ward
DUNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS

School of Business

Master of Business Administration

Michelle Ann Abbascia
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

Waldemar Agostini
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nana B. Agyemang
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren Elizabeth Almes
LAUREL, MARYLAND

Santosh Arcot
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Milagros D. Arias
MILLERSVILLE, MARYLAND

Stephany Arriaza
EAST PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Brendan Spencer Arrighi
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Mekonnen Eshetie Ashagarie
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew D. Baker
GENEVA, NEW YORK

Kayla Marie Baker
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Janet Joke Bamgbade
HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY

Andre J. Barber
BRONX, NEW YORK

Amanda L. Belanger
NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Simon Elliott Bénéteau
MARKHAM, ONTARIO

Carl Rudolph Stephane Blain
HOLBROOK, MASSACHUSETTS

Chaltun Lumar Bodden
LARGO, FLORIDA

Brendan Jock Bogenschutz
MCKINNEY, TEXAS

Dinakar V. Bollineni
NORTH ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY

Meghan I. Bowen
SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan C. Bowen
SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS

Felicia Marie Brannon
LANSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Christopher S. Brooks
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeremy M. Brown
HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Louis Mitchell Brown
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Kevin Brown SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS	Cynthia Anne Ethier NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS	Ryan Michael Lawson JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
Monwell J. Brown MANCHESTER, NEW JERSEY	Meryem Ezzahraoui FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS	Paul Edmund Leary III MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
Christopher Adam Bruinsma MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS	Tamra Fiori RIVERSIDE, RHODE ISLAND	John J. Lepore ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Zachary Steven Buckland NORTH BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS	Diana Lynne Fitch LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Cynthia Ann Lindblad NORTH GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Stephanie M. Burke KINGSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	Charles Michael Fogarty NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS	Kimberly Loftus POCASSET, MASSACHUSETTS
Ronn E. Burner LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA	Matthew F. Fortier ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS	Joyianna Luc WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Lyndsey N. Burns SOUTH EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS	Cynthia Gebler HOPKINTON, MASSACHUSETTS	Bernard Joseph Madore DERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Colleen M. Calandrelli ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS	Marissa Lee Gemma LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS	David H. Malek BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY
Michael David Calderone HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE	Jason Howard Gladish LEDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY	Foster Jackson Maniabre WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Ruben Alejandro Cantu MERCEDES, TEXAS	Thomas Francis Grant PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS	Amanda Frimpong Manson WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Kevin John Carnevale DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS	Eli Guerra SEATTLE, WASHINGTON	Brandon John Marthinsen CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE
Matthew Quincy Casaubon LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Victor R. Gutierrez NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS	Michael Thomas McGuire EAST HAMPTON, CONNECTICUT
Nora Anne Casey MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS	Bryanna Nicholle Hache WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Marcus Melendez ELMHURST, NEW YORK
Brian Allen Chaisson WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS	Daniel Robert Hall ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS	Vianelle Melo-Silveira HOLBROOK, MASSACHUSETTS
Roberto Chang NOVATO, CALIFORNIA	Elizabeth Hardie SOUTH EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS	Abiel Meme DIAMOND BAR, CALIFORNIA
Sara Charmchi MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS	Janet E. Harris PRESTON, CONNECTICUT	Livengton Meme DIAMOND BAR, CALIFORNIA
Jeffrey Comlin HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS	Pamela Anne Hazel-Knop LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Karen L. Montagna GLENDSIDE, PENNSYLVANIA
Steven Couto Jr. SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS	Jonathan Kary Horton MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE	Cherise Morris Moore BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Perry Cyr WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS	Jorge L. Hunzelmann FREDERICK, MARYLAND	William Orion Morgan WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Brooke Czasnowski ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS	Tamer Mohamed Farag Husien CAIRO, EGYPT	Nicole Natale-York NORTH PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
Kenille Daniel ARDMORE, PENNSYLVANIA	Chinedu Godswill Ibuaka MAYWOOD, ILLINOIS	Guy Constant D. Ngassa WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Jaime E. Davidson DELAFIELD, WISCONSIN	Laura Imler ORLEANS, MASSACHUSETTS	John Njoroge Nginyayu METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS
Priscilla C. Dean MILFORD, CONNECTICUT	Nikiya Clarae Jacobs CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS	Adrian Joseph Olivera FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
Vincent Derosa TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY	Terrance D. Johnson SUNRISE, FLORIDA	Sarah Elisabeth Olson WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Meghan Lyn Donlan LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Eric Christopher Jones PEORIA, ILLINOIS	Jon Eric Oosterman WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS
Jennifer L. Dorval ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS	Fatima Sayed Taqi Khalaf MANAMA, BAHRAIN	Aaron Paiva MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS
Kayla Irene Douglas LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS	John Robert Kozlowski QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS	Mua'au Jacob Pa'u SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
Deion Ducoste BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	Ethan D. Laakso PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS	Kristina Marie Perry BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Macvies Chidera Ekeanyanwu DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS	Cassandra Gretta Laine LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS	Catherine Petersen MONT VERNON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Samuel Escobar BAY SHORE, NEW YORK	Stacy Marie Lapierre ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS	Jaime Elizabeth Phillipso MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Blake Nathaniel Quinlan
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Aysha Zia Rathor
WOODBIDGE, VIRGINIA

Anne Marie Redfearn
HAZEL GREEN, WISCONSIN

Ammar Ali Rizvi
HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY

Danielle Angela Robbie
MAPLEVILLE, RHODE ISLAND

Priscilla Ekaete Robertson
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas William Robinson
NORTH ROYALTON, OHIO

Jessica Rodriguez
NORTH BERGEN, NEW JERSEY

Karen T. Rosenblum
SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew James Russo
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

John Patrick Ryan
SUDBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Lynsie A. Sabbatelli
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Cristian Sanchez
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jomaris M. Santana
ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO

Nikita Saran
ISSAQUAH, WASHINGTON

Kyle Oliveira Schwartz
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Tselot Seyoum
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Rachel Shipp
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Sonia Shuka
SWAMPSCOTT, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth C. Smith
NORWALK, OHIO

Niayla Seneca Smith
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

Abigail Anne Sorensen
MANSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Michelle St. Andrews
KINGSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sophie Katherine Stevenson
LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew Thomas Stokinger
MONT VERNON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Angel N. Suarez
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Jean G. Syllien
NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

SandhyaGayathri Tangirala
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Kathleen Temple
ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA

Justin M. Thomas
GALLATIN, TENNESSEE

Nicholas Robert Martin Thornton
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Eva Marie Tolman-Brown
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ian Tran
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Bridget Shea Nichols Tripp
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Beth K. Uhl-Israel
NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristabel Tatiana Vargas Arango
GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacqueline Veiga
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kimberly A. Walker
LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA

Neil Wallis
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Rosemarie Wanjiru Wamugunda
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica Danielle Watson
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Isaura Iris Weddige-Welch
EAST FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Rob Thomas Wells
MAPLE SHADE, NEW JERSEY

Julia Rose Westwell
CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Candis Nadette Yeah
STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA

Ada Tsz Shan Yeung
SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA

Nicole Marie Young
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Martina Zhelezarova
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Maureen Lynda Zuromsky
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Angela Michelle Wening
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Education

CURRICULUM AND TEACHING

Kathryn Ozella Bakalars
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Evan Matthew Beauvais
WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Charles Leonard Blake Jr.
HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Robin A. Bouyer
READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Timothy William Britton
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Erin Elizabeth Burke
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa M. Byrne
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandra Coffin
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Melanie Eva Collins
HANSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Victoria Rose Crossen
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacqueline Emilee Cusick
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Alana Diane DeBello
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelsey Noelle Dembitzky
JAFFREY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jennifer E. Desilvestre
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

Amy M. Devlin
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Carolynn R. Dewitt
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaitlin L. Dierze
TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Katelyn Marie DiFrancesco
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Rene Edward Dion Jr.
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Julie Elizabeth Dore
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Irene Busa Dresser
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Hannah Palange Easter-Schultz
MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Laurie Eckford
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Christine Evers
ATKINSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Stephanie Anne Finn
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Danielle Foster
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

School of Education

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Katherine Flueckiger Davey
FOXBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Michelle DellaValle
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Erika M. Kirby
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Bernard Lutinski II
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Rebecca Pierce
WHITMAN, MASSACHUSETTS

Shellnisha Johnae Franklin
DELTONA, FLORIDA

Timothy Joseph Gribbons
OAKHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Katherine Emily Hall
PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Mark A. Hamilton
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Richard Hammond
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica Hanssens
COHASSET, MASSACHUSETTS

Conor Joseph Hawley
NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Laurel Mary Hendrickson
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Patricia R. Heng
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

David Eric Hicks
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Kenneth Ernest Horne
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian Elise Iacobone
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian R. Jacob
DIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Michael Kelly
WESTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Padraic Bartlett Kelly
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Debra Marie King
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer A. Knowles
BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jonela Kuka
BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Evelyn Luongo
WARE, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda M. Lydon
PLAINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Suzanne Marie Lynn
WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Juliane Mak
WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

John Tyler McCarthy
LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle Richard Meath
NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Sharon Crystal Mendes
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Eleri Sian Merrikin
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashleigh Joy Mota-Medeiros
DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Ellen Muir
OSTERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Bartholomew Murphy, Jr.
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

David Michael Murphy
STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenna Michelle Norstrom
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Gina Marie Orsogna
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Scott Ryan Potter
MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Michelle Richner
HANSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas F. Rooney
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Courtney Glenda Salmon
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Bryan James Sharland
RAYNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Maryann Judith Shepard
BYFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Pouyon Sorornejad
READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Megan Mary Sterczala
OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Stearns Sullivan
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Donna Lauren Swift
EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Jane Elizabeth Taylor
VINEYARD HAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Brittany Irene Vaille
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Jesse David Veinotte
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer Lynn Weiland
OAK BLUFFS, MASSACHUSETTS

Lindsay Noel Whalen
HANSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenny Anna White
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexia Kilgallon Yuen
WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Hayley Rose Gingras
DALTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Danielle Teresa Miner
CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Alondra Yvette Pedraza
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole M. Vautour
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Cassandra Lee Amadio
MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebekah Noel Andino
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Gregory Baker Beaudoin
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Crystal Amber Bouphe
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Courtney Rose Connors
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Maura Correa
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

James A. Danielson Jr.
BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashleigh Janet Hogan
LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian R. Hough
PALMYRA, NEW JERSEY

Davis Piper McKeon
WEYBRIDGE, VERMONT

Chrislyn Apphia Newton
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Anne Fowles Scanlan-Emigh
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenna Violette
PLAINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Sadia Khalid Warraich
SPOTSWOOD, NEW JERSEY

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Alicia Marie Debenedictis
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Courtney Renee DesBois
TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Caitlin Stevens
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Barbara J. Albert
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Rose Alves
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Timothy J. Anderson
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jamie Lynne Ballerini
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Michelle Lynn Brady
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Julia R. Chisholm
MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS

Beatrice Donkoh
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Dane C. Durepo
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael A. Ellis
GENEVA, OHIO

Sean Michael Findlen
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Patricia L. Fishwick
MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Rachel Mary-Grace Fitzpatrick
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Lynne Fors
SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Tedi George
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Jocelyn Marie Hains
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Caroline J. Halloran
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathryn Mary Leger
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Taylor A. Levy
NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Chad F. Linstruth
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Monica Elizabeth Massucco
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

John H. Matthews
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Erin Mawhinney
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Dakota Elyzabeth McMahon
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelsey Anne Mola
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Bridgette Nee
DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Devon Cady Pattershall
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica L. Penney
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Rachelle Marie Perrine
WILBRAHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Joan Pierce
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah J. Plouffe
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Amy Pogorzelski
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Dennis L. Robinson
EUCLID, OHIO

Christina May Sauer
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandra J. Senckowski
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer M. Spear
PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Norina Stalford
LITTLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelsey M. Stouffer
EAST FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Marie Tarckini
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Maria Delano Vigeant
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Tara V. Witzgall
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Shayla Maureen Works
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

School of Health and Natural Sciences

Master of Education

OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

Benjamin Paul Algarin
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Marion Copithorne
NORTH READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Dedra Cyra Hathaway
BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

SCIENCE EDUCATION

Lauryn E. Larson
SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Science

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Laxminandan Reddy Jaini
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Raj Kiran Kakarla
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Navya Sri Medidhi
IRVING, TEXAS

Oladotun Elijah Opasina
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Richard Wayne Phillips II
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Avinash Ramasahayam
NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Sravanthi Sribhashyam
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Sai Sree Mithra Sripathi
WESTBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Srinivasan Sundaramani
NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Srimukha Vasireddy
JOHNSTON, IOWA

FORENSIC NURSING

Melissa Cochrane Murph
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Nicole Zoe Papadinis
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS



GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Christopher S. Brooks **Master of Business Administration**

Christopher Brooks was already an established professional when he decided to return to Fitchburg State University to pursue another advanced degree.

Brooks briefly attended Fitchburg State after graduating from high school, but decided to pursue a different path by enlisting in the U.S. Navy. He credits his military service for helping him grow as a person. After serving, he went to physician assistant school. Because he was taking his boards, he missed his undergraduate commencement in 2001.

His lengthy health care career has included service as a physician assistant in emergency room settings, as well as orthopedics, and currently in neurointerventional radiology, where he shares duties as a stroke coordinator.

Brooks was inspired to pursue a business degree by one of his patients, who described how it could broaden his professional horizons. He completes his Master of Business Administration with a concentration in health care management tonight, for which he earned a perfect grade point average.

He lives in Gardner with his wife and their 16-year-old daughter.

2020 FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching



Dr. Paul I. Weizer

Dr. Weizer of the Department of Economics, History and Political Science received the Vincent J. Mara Excellence in Teaching Award, established in 1989 to honor former university president, Mara (1976-1995). He founded Fitchburg State's

Moot Court program that enables students to compete in regional and national Moot Court competitions, where they consistently place at the top, alongside students from some of the country's most prominent universities. Weizer has held many senior administrative roles, too, including interim provost, dean, department chair, and graduate program chair.

Contributions to the Graduate Program Award



Dr. Daneen Deptula

Dr. Deptula is a professor in the Psychological Science Department and chair of the Graduate Counseling Program in the Behavioral Sciences Department. Her numerous contributions to the graduate program include curriculum

development, such as developing an accelerated program of study, and the introduction of hybrid courses and certificates. She advises students and teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her research in the newly-emerging field of cyber aggression involves collaborations with both undergraduate and graduate students.

Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship



Dr. Catherine Buell

Dr. Buell is a professor in the Mathematics Department. Her research interests stretch from orbit decompositions of matrix groups, a sub-field of algebraic group theory, to visual stylometry, which integrates mathematics, philosophy,

computer science, and art to classify artwork. Other interdisciplinary projects she initiated include creating a statistics course for social justice and writing a computer program to assist her science colleagues and their students studying silver-nanoparticles and their impact on plants. Her newest research thread studies ethics in math, a controversial new topic in her field.

Faculty Award for Service



Dr. jenn berg

Dr. berg is a professor and former chair of the Mathematics Department. A large investment of her volunteer time has gone to her faculty colleagues, state and national educational administrators, parents and students (at all academic levels) to establish

institutional learning goals and assessing their effectiveness. She also developed “Team Accountability” sessions to help faculty discuss, gather and compose their reappointment materials and continued making herself available over time as a resource and confidant. berg has held many faculty union positions, too, both on boards and as a member of the bargaining team.

(Her preference is for lower case letters. She is currently on a leave of absence.)

Dr. Vincent J. Mara Excellence in Teaching Award

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019	Randy P. Howe
2018	Elizabeth (Beth) R. Walsh
2017	Kelly C. Morgan
2016	Meledath Govindan
2015	Benjamin A. Railton
2014	Sean C. Goodlett
2013	Joshua B. Spero
2012	George F. Bohrer
2011	Howard H. Thomas
2010	Jane A. Fiske
2009	Christine Cosgrove
2008	Peter Laytin
2007	John J. Paul
2006	Eric N. Budd
2005	Gerald M. Higdon
2004	Louis J. Zivic
2003	Barbara S. Cammuso
2002	Thomas Battinelli
2001	Maria M. Jaramillo
2000	Andrea J. Wallen
1999	Edmund B. Thomas
1998	Lee N. Cunningham
1997	Robert F. Champlin
1996	Colin E. Bourn
1995	Pasquale E. Micciche
1994	Rosemarie S. Giovino
1993	Helen O'Flaherty
1992	Caroline A. Murphy
1991	Donald J. Schmidt

Faculty Award for Service

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019	Eric N. Budd
2018	Megan M. Krell
2017	Elizabeth S. Gordon

Contributions to the Graduate Program Award

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019	Joseph E. McAloon (awarded posthumously)
2018	John M. Hancock
2017	Chola Chisunka
2016	Nancy L. Murray
2015	Harry Semerjian
2014	Anne M. Howard
2013	Richard J. Spencer
2012	Elaine E. Francis
2011	Michele M. Zide
2010	Rosemarie S. Giovino

Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019	Kisha G. Tracy
2018	Katherine R. Jewell
2017	Teresa Fava Thomas
2016	Eric N. Budd
2015	Jeffrey E. Warmouth
2014	Benjamin A. Railton
2013	Michael B. Hoberman
2012	Susan R. Williams
2011	Joshua B. Spero
2010	Jannette M. McMenamy
2009	Susan M. Wadsworth
2008	Maria M. Jaramillo
2007	Christopher K. Cratsley
2006	Robert J. Wellman
2005	Benjamin D. Lieberman
2004	Paul I. Weizer
2003	Robin D. Dinda
2002	Cynthia Crosson
2001	Nan Wiegersma
2000	Howard H. Thomas

UNIVERSITY SYMBOLS

The university's colors are white, gold and green. White and gold were formally adopted in June 1900, and green was added in 1979. They signify wisdom, inspiration, purity and perfection. The school motto, also adopted in 1900, is Perseverantia. This Latin word was freely translated to mean "achievements brought about by quiet will."



The university flower, the saxifrage, exemplifies the motto. The saxifrage, a small white flower with a golden center, was often found growing through cracks of rocks in early spring. Tiny as the flower is, it appeared to be so strong it could break rocks, through its gentle perseverance, its ability to overcome difficulties in its growth from seed to fruition, from lower to higher, from darkness to light.

These triumphs parallel each individual's growth through education.

In 1900, the saxifrage was adopted as the original college seal. Its white flower petals were surrounded by a golden wreath of saxifrage leaves.

The seal has evolved along with the institution, most recently in 2010 with the attainment of university status. The saxifrage and the motto remain prominent in the design, though they are depicted with a clean, elegant, contemporary look. The current academic logo incorporates a multitude of visual symbols: a shield, a book, an abstract set of wings, and, finally, a subtle "F" in the negative space.

PRESIDENTIAL COLLAR

At formal academic occasions, the president of Fitchburg State University also wears the Presidential Collar. The links in the collar are engraved with the names of Fitchburg State's eleven presidents and years of service. The Presidential Medal, which incorporates the university seal, is suspended from the collar.

Principals / Presidents

2015–Present	Richard S. Lapidus
2003–2015	Robert V. Antonucci
2002–2003	Michael T. Rivard (Interim)
1995–2002	Michael P. Riccards
1975–1995	Vincent J. Mara
1963–1975	James J. Hammond
1953–1963	Ralph F. Weston
1950–1953	Ellis F. White
1945–1950	William J. Sanders
1927–1945	Charles M. Herlihy
1920–1927	William J. Parkinson
1895–1920	John G. Thompson

REGALIA

The origins of academic dress lie uncertainly in 13th century England, when Edward III granted a charter to the University of Oxford. A close connection between the university and the church (the chancellor was the bishop's representative) may explain why illustrations depict the members of Oxford wearing gowns resembling clerical cassocks—closed in front and reaching the ground all around. Like the more lavishly trimmed ecclesiastical vestments, costume for advanced degrees was more elaborate.

A more practical reason than religious concurrence may have also prompted the adoption of long gowns. The buildings frequented by medieval scholars were cold and often damp, and so robes (particularly with hoods to protect tonsured heads) may have been worn more for warmth than fashion. The distinctive gown nevertheless set the student apart from his fellow citizens. As late as the Civil War, students at American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Whatever the origin, academic regalia grew in diversity and splendor, with scholars displaying distinctive costumes for different occasions and achievements. The result was a bewildering variety of designs.

An intercollegiate commission met at Columbia University in 1894 to establish a standard academic costume code, and over the years it has been revised by an official committee of the American Council on Education. The committee's prescriptions, while regulating, still allow for great pageantry at formal academic events. From the cap, gown and hood it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer was graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree—bachelor, master, or doctoral.

The distinguishing feature of the black mortarboard cap, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States, is the

color of the tassel—black for the holder of a bachelor's or master's degree, gold for a doctor's degree or the governing officers of educational institutions. A few institutions have soft velvet tams instead.

The gown is normally black, and the gown's cut and trim indicate the level of the degree held. The bachelor's has long, pointed sleeves, while the master's has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The doctor's sleeves are bell-shaped, with three bars of velvet, and the gown is trimmed with velvet down the front as well.

The hood tells the most about the wearer. The length of the hood and width of the binding vary according to degree. The hood is lined with the official colors of the college (Fitchburg State University's colors are white, gold, and green). The color of the hood's binding indicates the area of study in which the degree was granted.

ARTS & SCIENCES

- Applied Communication – White
- Arts Education – Light Blue
- Counseling – White
- English – White
- History – White
- Interdisciplinary Studies – White

BUSINESS

- Business Administration – Drab

EDUCATION

- Curriculum and Teaching – Light Blue
- Early Childhood Education – Light Blue
- Educational Leadership and Management – Light Blue
- Elementary Education – Light Blue
- Middle School Education – Light Blue
- Special Education – Light Blue

HEALTH & NATURAL SCIENCES

- Biology – Golden Yellow
- Computer Science – Golden Yellow
- Nursing – Apricot
- Occupational Education – Light Blue
- Science Education – Light Blue

HISTORY

Established in 1894 by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature, the State Normal School in Fitchburg opened in temporary quarters in the old high school building on Academy Street. Principal John G. Thompson, aided by a teaching staff of three, implemented a two-year teacher training program

for women that had forty-six participants. In December 1896, the school expanded into a new building, known as Thompson Hall, and set up the State Schools of Observation and Practice in city buildings on Day Street and Highland Avenue.

In the next decade the school was a trendsetter for programs in Education. The Edgerly School opened, originally as an eighth-grade model and practice school, and then in 1910, it became one of the first junior high schools in the United States. The following year the school initiated the first practical arts teacher training course in the country for men.

In 1930, the State Normal School was authorized to offer a bachelor's degree in practical arts, and in 1932, when it became the State Teachers College at Fitchburg, four-year degrees were offered in all areas of education.

Under the auspices of the State Division of University Extension, summer courses were first offered in 1915, marking the beginning of the college's commitment to Continuing Education programs. In 1935, the college was also authorized to establish graduate programs and in 1954 the first evening courses were offered.

In 1960, the college changed its name and expanded its mission. The State College at Fitchburg diversified its programs to include degrees in disciplines other than education. In 1965, its name was officially changed to Fitchburg State College, which today offers forty-nine undergraduate degree programs in eighteen academic departments, twenty Masters Degree programs, five Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study programs, and seven Graduate Certificate programs. Enrollment consists of nearly 8,000 students between undergraduate and graduate populations. The campus has expanded from a single structure on High Street to thirty-two buildings on ninety acres, becoming the educational center for the Montachusett region. The college proudly offers traditional and nontraditional programs to serve the educational needs of its students as undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students.

On July 28, 2010, Gov. Deval L. Patrick signed legislation establishing a State University system in Massachusetts, and the institution's current name—Fitchburg State University—was enacted.



