



129TH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

GRADUATE SPRING CEREMONY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Fitchburg State University and to this joyous occasion—the graduate ceremony of our 129th commencement exercises. We come together today to celebrate an extraordinary milestone: the culmination of hard work, perseverance, and academic excellence in pursuit of an advanced degree. Graduation is not only a testament to the remarkable achievements of our students, but a reflection of the strength and support they each receive from this incredible community.

I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. Since my arrival last year, I have had the privilege of experiencing firsthand the warmth, dedication, and agility that define Fitchburg State. I have been inspired by the stories of resilience and determination shared by so many of you, and I am deeply honored to stand with you on this momentous day.

To our graduates, this ceremony is a celebration of your dedication and achievement. Each of you has embarked on a journey marked by intellectual curiosity, personal growth, and an unwavering commitment to your goals. You have embraced challenges, explored diverse perspectives, and developed skills that will empower you to make a meaningful impact on the world. Today's ceremony is a reflection of your hard work, and we are so proud of all that you have accomplished.

This celebration is also for the many others who have been part of your journey. To the families and loved ones who have encouraged, supported, and cheered you on, thank you for being the foundation that has helped these graduates succeed. To our dedicated faculty, librarians, and staff, your passion for teaching, commitment to your disciplines, willingness to mentor and support our Fitchburg State students has made today possible. Today, we celebrate all of you as well.

Graduates, as you prepare to begin the next chapter of your lives, know that your education will be a foundation for endless possibilities. It is not merely a culmination but a beginning—a powerful tool to help you navigate myriad opportunities and challenges ahead. You leave Fitchburg State equipped to innovate, problem-solve, and lead. Embrace this next adventure with courage and confidence, and know that the lessons you've learned here will remain with you as you shape a future for yourself, for your families, and for your communities.

On behalf of the entire university, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of you. May your future be filled with success, happiness, and fulfillment. As you go forth, always remember that Fitchburg State will remain a home for you, a place that celebrates your achievements and supports your dreams.

With warmest wishes and deepest pride,



Donna Hodge, Ph.D.
President



129TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Graduate Spring Ceremony

Presiding

Dr. Donna Hodge, President of the University

Prelude Music

Innovata Brass

“Fanfare from La Peri,” composed by Paul A. Dukas

Master of Ceremonies for the Processional

Dr. Charles H. Sides

Professor of Communications Media

Processional

Innovata Brass

“Pomp and Circumstance,” composed by Edward W. Elgar

Presentation of University Mace and Faculty Gonfalon

Dr. DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld

Professor of English Studies

2024 recipient of the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship

Dr. Robert Shapiro

Professor of Education

2024 recipient of the Contributions to the Graduate Program Award

Call to Order

Dr. Patricia A. Marshall

Provost and Executive Vice President

The Star-Spangled Banner

Tay Crout

“The Star-Spangled Banner,” by Francis Scott Key

Montachusett Regional Vocational

Technical School Junior ROTC

Greetings from the Fitchburg Chapter of the MSCA

Ms. Linda LeBlanc

Senior Librarian and Library Program Area Chair

Reflections from the President

Dr. Donna Hodge

Musical Interlude

Innovata Brass “Variations on a Theme of Haydn,” by Johannes Brahms

The audience is requested
to stand as they are able for
the processional, national
anthem, alma mater,
and recessional, and to
remain in place until the
faculty have recessed.

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Donna Hodge

Ms. Lynn M. Barrieau

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Dr. Franca R. Barricelli

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Degree Name Readers

Dr. Rajeev Indira-Nagaraju, Director of Institutional Research

Dr. Daniel Sarefield, Professor of History

Dr. David Svolba, Associate Professor of Humanities

Greetings from Alumni

Mr. John Garten, Class of 1989

President, Alumni Association

Alma Mater

Tay Crout

"In Old Wachusett's Shadow"

composed by Ms. Priscilla (Taylor) McLean, Class of 1963

Closing Remarks

Dr. Patricia A. Marshall

Recessional

Innovata Brass

"Allegro Maestoso," composed by George Frideric Handel

Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees

Dr. Michael Fiorentino Jr., Chair

Ms. Lynn M. Barrieau, Vice Chair

Mr. David C. Tiernan, Clerk

Ms. Jennifer L. Flanagan

Mr. Matthew Gill, Student Trustee

Mr. Eric A. Gregoire

Ms. Sheila King-Goodwin

Mr. Michael Morris

Mr. Shane Rodriguez

Ms. Karen J. Spinelli

Ms. Carolyn E. Crowley Stimpson

GRADUATE DEGREES

School of Arts & Sciences

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Kristine D. Bourque
SUNDERLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Arts

ENGLISH

Reed L. Piscopo
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

HISTORY

Lisa Campenella Crowley
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Albert J. Evans-Perez
EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica Ann Johnson
MORONI, UTAH

William Mason McCormick
PALM CITY, FLORIDA

Anikó Éva Kökény Nagy
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Education

ARTS EDUCATION

Sahar Ghavimi
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Science

APPLIED COMMUNICATION

Marion Goodwin
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Harriet Nana Yaa Opoku
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

COUNSELING

Celeste Luciana Alvarado
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Alyssa Rose Annese
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kiara M. Burak
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Daphne Lynn Copeland
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Lohgen R. Dautel
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Sydney Gray Dickhaut
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Molly Erin Ellis
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Alyssa Marie Fay Matseas
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Ann Fournier
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Meghan E. Guptill
HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS

Payton Holmes
WESTBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Shawn Kneeland
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Krysta Luz López-Acevedo
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Ann Mpelkas
STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Nadia Lynn Rohlfs
PRINCETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jerrika Raven St. John
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Nicole E. Athorn
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Robert William Brouillette III
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Darlenne G. Chavarria
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyra Queen Gaboury
CANTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kendal Gould
PRINCETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Grace Marie Kerr
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca Lynne Levesque
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Timothy Nelson Sheehy
WAKEFIELD, RHODE ISLAND

School of Business & Technology

Master of Business Administration

Leila Afsharpour
ASHLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Yareli Aguirre-Barthell
CUMMING, GEORGIA

Ameona Leigh Almud
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

Laura Alin Alzamora Nunez
WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Brandon Anderson
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren Marie Anderson
SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Adanna Aniagboso
RANDOLPH, MASSACHUSETTS

Tristen Leigh Annunziata
GREENVILLE, RHODE ISLAND

Jefferson A. Aryee
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Nursin Ata
BOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Andrew Bail
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Patrick Collin Baker
EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Brian J. Balkus
SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Samantha Lee Banville
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Heather A. Bear
COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT

Courtney Ann Benjamin
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Courtney Alice Berado
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Nisha Jugal Bhagat
NORTH CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Eric Oppong Boateng
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

George B. Boateng
BERGENFIELD, NEW JERSEY

William A. Bofah
SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK

Carla Boguslawski
MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS

Blaze! Bordeaux
HOMEDALE, IDAHO

Juanita L. Brown
RANDOLPH, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenna Marie Calisi
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Koly Muhammed Camara JAMAICA, NEW YORK	Samantha Lynn Eldredge WEST BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS	Erin Maeve Heffernan WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
Samantha Irene Candow TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS	Maxwell G. Elfman WHITMAN, MASSACHUSETTS	Lauren Elizabeth Higgins FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
Latisha Casteel NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS	Emilee Elfsten SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA	Jessica Rose Hochberg LANESBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS
Madison K. Chalifoux MANSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS	Jonathan Alexander Encalada LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS	William Robert Hoeksema ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
Mikayla Marie Charette MIDDLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS	Obinna Charles Eziefula ARLINGTON, TEXAS	Samantha Joyce Holweger MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
Leila Saadia Cherifi ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS	Danell Ann Felizardo REHOBOTH, MASSACHUSETTS	Anila Hood CLAREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Kudakwashe Tapiwa Mupimibirimano Chidzonga HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS	Philip Joseph Fennell AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS	Muhammad Rubait Hussain KARACHI, PAKISTAN
Robert L. Clarke HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS	Victoria L. Feyrer RINDGE, NEW HAMPSHIRE	Jeremy Brooklyn Jackson ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA
Nicholas James Lee Cole DENVER, COLORADO	Geoffrey Vincent Filleti FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS	Zyra Y. James TOA BAJA, PUERTO RICO
Joseph Troy Collins APEX, NORTH CAROLINA	Symantha M. Fortin WARSAW, NORTH CAROLINA	Susan J. Jepson JAFFREY, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Juan Sebastian Contreras Jaimes BOGOTA D.C., COLOMBIA	Kristen Elizabeth Freund MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS	Audrey Jerome NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Heather Mae Couture MATTAPAN, MASSACHUSETTS	Pengcheng Gao KEW GARDEN HL, NEW YORK	Debbie Ann Jimenez FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS
Jack Croughwell LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS	Ana Isabel Garcia KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA	Benjamin Johnson NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS
Karen Cruz DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS	Ramon Enrique Garcia Rodriguez NORTH PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA	Beth Ann Johnson PLAINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
Ekow A. Dadzie WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Paige Gardner HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS	Emma Johnston NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
Ryan E. Daley JEFFERSON, MASSACHUSETTS	Deanna Lyn Gaumond WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Nikole Amber Jones DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
Victoria Danso GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS	Ahmed Ghanem OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS	Yoldine Joscirin ORLANDO, FLORIDA
Christopher P. Davis NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS	Sean Terrence Gile TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS	Patricia Joseph-Delva WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Mary Araba Dawutey LEICESTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Robert Joseph Gilgore AUBURN, PENNSYLVANIA	Michael Martin Kardenetz PLAINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
Ashley E. Denio LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Nathalie Marisol Gonzalez MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS	Gillian Rose Kayo SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Genesis Dimiceli MASCOTTE, FLORIDA	Zarinet Gonzalez Santini WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Jonathan James Kidd ATKINSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Lydia Mei Doucette WILMINGTON, DELAWARE	Melissa A. Gravel LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Zachary Hayden Kitzmiller MERRILL, MICHIGAN
David Duong QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS	Taylor R. Greene BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS	Dzmitry Kolezneu AUBURNDALE, MASSACHUSETTS
Stephanie Dupuis HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	Alexandra M. Grigorian JOHNSTON, RHODE ISLAND	Courtney Helen Koskela NORTH PRINCE GEORGE, VIRGINIA
Daryl Shannon Durken LEE, MASSACHUSETTS	Alexandria Kathleen Grimaldo FARMINGTON, UTAH	Katelyn Marie Kovaleski AVOCA, PENNSYLVANIA
Ashley Elizabeth Eames-Smith PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE	Sherina Joseph Guerrier EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS	Eugene Kelly Kudiabor FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS
Ryan Earle WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS	Nevine Guirguis MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE	Nancy A. Kwentoh MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT
Wendy Shyanne Edouard RANDOLPH, MASSACHUSETTS	Chaudhry Awais Habib KARACHI, PAKISTAN	Phuong Helen La WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Tramaine Dee EL-Amin PEEKSKILL, NEW YORK	Marlene Pamela Hart MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS	Leflock Lawrence HANSCOM AFB, MASSACHUSETTS
	Emily Patricia Haynes ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS	Alexis R. Lefaivre NEWPORT, VERMONT

Christine Marie Leonard RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS	Rocio Del Carmen Mount WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS	Jake Rand WINTHROP, MASSACHUSETTS
Arbesa Liko-Keqi STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK	Abdul-Hakim M. Muhammad FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS	Nolan Raymond HOLBROOK, MASSACHUSETTS
Maryellen L. Lopez QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS	Alejandra Cristina Murcia Pineda LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS	Ashley Ann Reddy GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
Reginald Lozandier NEW YORK, NEW YORK	Brooke L. Murdock PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS	Jonathan Howard Lee Rhodes MILLBURY, OHIO
Alex Jeffery Lundberg BRADENTON, FLORIDA	Virginia Kate Murphy WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Melissa Kaylynn Roberts SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
Jimmy Ly ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS	Ahmed Mustafa HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS	Elianna Janee Rodriguez LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Jessica E. Maciel-Stamper SOUTH WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS	Mildred Nankinga BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS	Vanessa L. Rodriguez WESLACO, TEXAS
Vincent Ogeto Magasi LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Sophia Marie Napoli LITTLETON, MASSACHUSETTS	Renée Nicole Rogers WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
Patrick J. Maguire SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS	Michelle L. Niles FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS	Julia Walters Rusinoski FORESTDALE, MASSACHUSETTS
Dylan D. Maignan YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NEW YORK	Millie Kathleen Normandin CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS	Beshoy Said POMPTON LAKES, NEW JERSEY
Arbnor Maliqi AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS	Kelsey Norris MIDDLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS	Jaraad E. Salas AIEA, HAWAII
Kyle Joseph Martell TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS	Queenelia Obioha DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS	Anysha Santiago Colon LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Sarah Lynn Martin HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA	John David Ogden HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS	Shannon J. Savoy BERKLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
Juan Andres Martinez-Muñoz WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS	Faith Osarumen Edionwe PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS	Maurice N. Scott LITHONIA, GEORGIA
Michael J. McAuliffe TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS	Albert Henry O'Neill TROY, NEW YORK	Brenda Semakula NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS
Jeremy Jason McCabe BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS	Elmer A. Orellana WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS	Phebe Alexandra Shippy WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS
Leon Eric McDonald BROOKLYN, NEW YORK	Michelle L. O'Rourke HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS	Abigail Marie Silva FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS
Margaret L. McDonald DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS	Kristy Osorez METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS	Brittany Skura CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Daniel Patrick McDonough HANSON, MASSACHUSETTS	Katelyn Lee Palmer CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT	George L. Slaughter CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Joshua Andrew McFarland SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE	Suzanne Beth Panagopoulos NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS	Nicole Marie Sloan SAINT HEWIG, TEXAS
Jessica McGlynn SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS	Anastasios Papakonstantopoulos ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS	Erna Smajilovic SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
Steven J. McHugh DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS	Tyler Edward Patterson PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA	Malay Soni ELGIN, ILLINOIS
Christina Eaton Mendoza ACWORTH, GEORGIA	Lordisha Sophia Paul EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS	Simi Brayden Stanford STAFFORD, VIRGINIA
Ilissa A. Millington WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS	Stella Amber Paz FLOWER MOUND, TEXAS	Mamou Sylla STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK
Leveene Dezellie Modestile EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA	Michelle Ann Pelham BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE	Jennyfer Geralde Sylvain Taylor ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS
Brendan Joseph Monahan LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS	Abraham M. Perez PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS	Brittany M. Teixeira PALM COAST, FLORIDA
Matthew Paul Monopoli MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS	Chelsea Lynn Piccirillo CLINTON, CONNECTICUT	Hillary B. Threlkeld RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS
Laura Claire Monteiro SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS	Magdala Michel Preston BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS	James Traz Thrower AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS
Kayla Elizabeth Moran BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS	Maria Ann Quattrocchi TALKING ROCK, GEORGIA	Mary Elizabeth Tobin WAKEFIELD, RHODE ISLAND
Mohammad Zabed Morshed MANSFIELD, TEXAS	Ashley Quiles SMITHTOWN, NEW YORK	Michelle Ann Tremblay CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Obieze A. Uchendu
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Spencer Uguccioni
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Antonio Vega
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Tearra Verheyen
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Genevieve Verrette
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniela Virgen Villa
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Ronna Marie Voges
BILLINGS, MONTANA

Maurice Myron Walker, II
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

Tomasz M. Warchol
WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Vernette P. Williams
WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Patricia R. Woodliff
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Arthur Song Xia
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Shad Young
JACKSON, WISCONSIN

Krysta Leigh Zbikowski
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren Elizabeth Zent
CHATHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Education

OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

Jennifer R. Gilman
NORTH BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Robert Alfred Maiella
DERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Julie A. Moulton
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Science

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Prudwi Adapa
KALLURU, INDIA

Samatha Sri Addagatla
WARANGAL, INDIA

Phani Madhav Addanki
GUNTUR, INDIA

Akhil Addicherla
MANDAMARRI, INDIA

Ajith Rao Adi
KARMNAGAR, INDIA

Shreya Reddy Adulla
SIDDIPET, INDIA

Alan Alexeyev
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Arfee Ali
PUTNAM, CONNECTICUT

Sravan Kumar Reddy Anam
NELLORE, INDIA

Manikantareddy Annem
ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

Sri Mouni Ariga
BHIMAVARAM, INDIA

Abhinay Arigala
MANCHERIAL, INDIA

Vineetha Attuluri
NARASARAOPET, INDIA

Vishnuvardhan Reddy Avula
NARASARAOPET, INDIA

Ganesh Reddy Baddigam
VIJAYAWADA, INDIA

Swathi Bapanapalli
JONACHUNDUR, INDIA

Venkat Mouneesh Reddy Beesu
MAHABUBNAGAR, INDIA

Visalakshi Bikkina
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, INDIA

Aravind Yadav Bojja
MALLIKUDURLA, INDIA

Rohan Netha Bomma
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Saiteja Bommenna
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Travis Danis Cain
KINGSTOWN, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Vamsi Challa
KANDUKURU, INDIA

Vasanthakumar Chidanandagari
VALASA, INDIA

Mallikarjun Chikatimalla
SIDDIPET, INDIA

Subhasri Chiluka
MITTASADGUDA, INDIA

Harishwar Reddy Chirra
KANDUKUR, INDIA

Shyam Sundar Reddy Chitturi
PARIGI, INDIA

Nithish Choudarapu
KARIMNAGAR, INDIA

Surya Nikhil Kumar Chowdary
KORLAKOTA, INDIA

Prudvi Vardhan Reddy Dadi
GUJJA, INDIA

Manasa Dama
MAKKINAVARIPALEM, INDIA

Ramesh Babu Dama
KANDUKUR, INDIA

Hemamalini Dasari Gajendran
ARAKKONAM, INDIA

Cameron J. Davis
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Ravali Reddy Desani
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Kripa Shankar Dhanaraj
KANUVAI, INDIA

Bhavya Reddy Dyapa
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Swathi Eerala
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Bhuvana Nandini Ejjeneni
MACHILIPATNAM, INDIA

Sai Likhita Reddy Eragam Reddy
KADAPA, INDIA

Akhilesh Yadav Gadam
BHUPALPALLY, INDIA

Saikiran Reddy Gangula
JANGOAN, INDIA

Sravan Kumar Garlapati
HALIYA, INDIA

Raja Sekhar Reddy Gatta
CHIRUMAMILLA, INDIA

Bhanu Teja Goske
KAMAREDDY, INDIA

Krishna Hemanth Gudapati
ELURU, INDIA

Prathyusha Gude
KONDAPALLI, INDIA

Ankitha Gujjula
PHIRANGIPURAM, INDIA

Sai Kumar Guntupalli
SATTUPALLI, INDIA

Siva Ganesh Sai Surya Guttula
PERUPALEM, INDIA

Luan Horjeti
FIER, ALBANIA

Yashwanth Kumar Jangili
WARANGAL, INDIA

Shiva Japala
KANDUKUR, INDIA

Suman Jena
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

Nikhil Sai Jonnakuti
CHERUKUPALLI, INDIA

Jayanthi Yadav Jwala
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Aarthi Kadam
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Balaram Krishna Kalisetty
KANDUKUR, INDIA

Harini Kallail Valson
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Mithika Kandadi
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Ram Naveen Guptha Kandikatla
NARASARAOPET, INDIA

Alex E. Karasik
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

Gopala Krishna Karnati
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Pragna Kilari
NARASARAOPET, INDIA

Koushik Reddy Kolanu
IBRAHIMPATNAM, INDIA

Surendhar Reddy Komide MAILARDEVALLY, INDIA	Kamal Chandra Mulangiri JAGITYAL, INDIA	Dinesh Naga Venkata Sumanth Ramadugu NARASARAOPET, INDIA
Sreekar Kompalli GOOTY, INDIA	Avinash Mullapudi TADEPALLIGUDEM, INDIA	Raghuram Rangaraju TAMIL NADU, INDIA
Chethan Reddy Kondaviti HYDERABAD, INDIA	Bala Krishna Mundru NARASARAOPET, INDIA	Avinash Reddy KAKINADA, INDIA
Kishore Kumar Kondoju NALGONDA, INDIA	Shravani Mutyallu HYDERABAD, INDIA	Nagavinodbabu Reddy ALLURU, INDIA
Dinesh Kumar Kondugari CHENNAI, INDIA	Sai Kiran Nagarala MAHABUBNAGAR, INDIA	Sainath Reddy Remata KURNOOL, INDIA
Neha Korukonda HYDERABAD, INDIA	S.M. Naief NOAKHALI, BANGLADESH	Rajesh Repala ANJANAPALLE, INDIA
Thriveni Kukatla ADDANKI, INDIA	Yasaswini Nallapula RAYADURG, INDIA	Adiza Saeed ACCRA, GHANA
Bhanu Teja Reddy Kunduru OGURU, INDIA	Naga Sai Harsha Namana MOPIDEVI, INDIA	Hema Latha Sakalabattula NUZVID, INDIA
Teja Janaki Rama Ramesh Kurma TADEPALLIGUDEM, INDIA	Shreya Reddy Narahari KARIMNAGAR, INDIA	Juan Miguel Salcedo MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS
Vijayalakshmi Loganathan CHENNAI, INDIA	Venkata Sai Tarun Nellutla KARIMNAGAR, INDIA	Santosh Sanivarapu VINJAMUR, INDIA
Nikhila Sri Macherla HYDERABAD, INDIA	Suchith Nooti KARIMNAGAR, INDIA	Praneeth Satla KHAMMAM, INDIA
Hitesh Maddi CHIRALA, INDIA	Shiva Sai Charan Oddi GODAVARIKHANI, INDIA	Nandini Satta NAGAPURI, INDIA
Pranay Teja Reddy Maddur WANAPARTHY, INDIA	Venkata Sai Sumanth Oddi GODAVARIKHANI, INDIA	Nagendra Babu Sattu KODADA, INDIA
Rishinivas Madishetti WARANGAL, INDIA	Enos Osei Owusu KUMASI, GHANA	Amanulla Shaik DAGGABADU, INDIA
Srikanth Maguluri HYDERABAD, INDIA	William Owusu KUMASI, GHANA	Rahul Shengavula HYDERABAD, INDIA
Musab Rashid Mahmood HYDERABAD, INDIA	Mahendra Vamsi Palagani GANNAVARAM, INDIA	Renuka Devi Sirigiri CHILAKALURIPETA, INDIA
Naveen Mallineni MACHERLA, INDIA	Sai Abhishek Palancha HYDERABAD, INDIA	Sri Lekha Souda JANGAON, INDIA
Bhuvana Chandra Maradani GUDIVADA, INDIA	Sushma Panchaneni GUDAPALLE, INDIA	Suraj Sura METPALLY, INDIA
Srinivas Margam JAGTIAL, INDIA	Lakshmi Prasanna Panidapu DARSI, INDIA	Nasreen Banu Hazari Syed VIJAYAWADA, INDIA
Shivani Reddy Marri BHONGIR, INDIA	Arun Kumar Pasula ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA	Narendra Tallapaneni KANDUKUR, INDIA
Zhanarys Matkabył ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN	Manish Peddi KARIMNAGAR, INDIA	Ashwitha Tanneeru KHAMMAM, INDIA
Divya Raghavi Mediseti SRUNGAVARAPUKOTA, INDIA	Chauncey Heath Pelton LEBANON, OHIO	Muriel Tema Tchanto DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS
Abdul Ahmed Mohammed WARANGAL, INDIA	Jahnavi Pidugu IBRAHIM NAGAR, INDIA	Monika Reddy Tetala WARANGAL, INDIA
Minhaj Ahmed Mohammed NAGARKURNOOL, INDIA	Roopesh Penshal Sai Yadav Ponguluru MUTHUKURU, INDIA	Arun Kumar Thallapally WARANGAL, INDIA
Salman Aqib Mohammed WARANGAL, INDIA	Ragni Prabhala HANAMONDA, INDIA	Kishan Kumar Reddy Thamatam Venkata NANDYAL, INDIA
Saad Mohiuddin NIZAMABAD, INDIA	Vishnu Nandan Pulakanti KORUTLA, INDIA	Jahnavi Thandu HYDERABAD, INDIA
Sri Rekha Morampudi HYDERABAD, INDIA	Vamshi Puli WARANGAL, INDIA	Bharath Kumar Thatipamula BELLAMPALLI, INDIA
Bhargav Morthala PALAKURTHY, INDIA	Aiman Quraishi HYDERABAD, INDIA	Lakshmi Supriya Thokala PRAKASAM, INDIA
Ramakrishna Muchintala VIJAYAWADA, INDIA		

Sindhura Thondepu
GOTTIPADU, INDIA

Geetha Samyuktha Thota
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Sai Sharath Kumar Tirunagari
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Varshith Durga Prasad Tunuguntla
BAPATLA, INDIA

Sai Sakshitha Uppuluri
RAJAHMUNDRY, INDIA

Madhav Vaddepalli
KORUTLA, INDIA

Jayasri Vadlamudi
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Kavya Vadlamudi
KAMBALADINNE, INDIA

Meghavi S. Vaghela
MORBI, INDIA

Sravani Vaka
WARANGAL, INDIA

Amarthya Valija
KARIMNAGAR, INDIA

Nikhitha Vallabhaneni
THOTLAVALLURU, INDIA

Venkata Sai Rama
Laxman Vangaveeti

MIRYALAGUDA, INDIA

Likith Vasala
KARIMNAGAR, INDIA

Naga Sowmya Vinjanampati
MYLAVARAM, INDIA

Mohan Viswanadhappalli
AVANIGADDA, INDIA

Lesly Ngah Wawa
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Shirisha Yada
HYDERABAD, INDIA

Suresh Yarramsetty
GUNTUR, INDIA

Manideep Yeravelli
KARIMNAGAR, INDIA

School of Education

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Robert Preston Admire Jr.
JEFFERSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelly Cracchiolo
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Amy Elizabeth Deacon
AMESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Jodi Marlene Greenberg
CONWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Catherine R. Lanouette
NEWTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Elizabeth Anne McQuaid
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Alicia Mary Rocco
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Sydow
ALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Kelly Anne Tavares
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Yingying Zhou
CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Education Specialist

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Jeffrey Ryan LeFave
NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Christa Murphy
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Education

CURRICULUM AND TEACHING

Joshua Craig Adams
EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Joseph Almeida
SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS

Nahla Hameed Al-Moazan
HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Osama Al-Rekabi
LITCHFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Katrina Marie Andrade
SOUTH YARMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Marguerite E. Belcher
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole R. Bernier
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Connor Evan Boyce
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nichole Camelo
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenny Ann Candor
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Claire Carey
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mareena Lyne Carlson
HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Peter M. Cibula
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Holly Noelle Connolly
MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Brittany Ann Croteau
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Anna Elizabeth Dame
DOUGLAS, MASSACHUSETTS

Gilbert Costa DaSilva
MERRIMACK, MASSACHUSETTS

Carson Andrew Desrosiers
WINDHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mikayla Elizabeth DiFelice
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph Paul Doyle
NORTH GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryann Olivia Forbes
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Stefania Gangi
WOBBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Athena Giles
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph S. Giordano
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Constantin Gorea
SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS

Marissa LaFay
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Laurel LaRoche
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Craig Lochiatto
HALIFAX, MASSACHUSETTS

Mary Beth S. Magan
EPSOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Kayleen Elizabeth McCormack
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Grace McGrail
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Christa E. McGrath
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Ellen Kyle McKenna
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Nadiya Monteiro
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassidy Sarah Moon
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel J. O'Donnell
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Tammy Marie Ostiguy
NORTH BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Camryn M. Ozolins
DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexia Jo Pacheco
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian Marie Pagliuca
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Jo Provencher
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole J. Putnam
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Chloe Margaret Robitaille
FOSTER, RHODE ISLAND

Nicholas L. Romanowsky
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Jahaira Blanca Rosado
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Mary Elizabeth Rosenwinkel
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexander William Ruppert
BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Amy L. Scannell
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Asiya Shaikh
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Nidhal Shakir
NORTH CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Shayna Nichole Spring
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Henry Miguel Steinkraus-Ramirez
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathleen M. Sullivan
BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

Eric James Supple
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren Lois Svensen
SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica R. Terry
PELHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Daneyel Thy
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Eric G. Trant
WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephanie Ann Traylor
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

James Brandon Tripp Pockevicius
CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Janette Elizabeth Truchon
MILLIS, MASSACHUSETTS

Fernanda Vicentini-Barbosa
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelly Ann Ziomek
SUNDERLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Beth E. Martinson
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

EDUCATION 5-12

Olivia Noreen Behenna
PLAINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Jordan W. Dembishack
CUMBERLAND, RHODE ISLAND

Jeremy Mark Folster
BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS

Taylor Ann Minore
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

Casey Nicole Regan
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Heather L. Richardson
MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Katelyn Marie Anderson
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS

Larry L. Ballard Jr.
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Michelle Carol Bernier
WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

William J. Brunstrom Jr.
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Heather Marie Burden
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Rylie Katherine Butman
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Dwayne Lee Chamble
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Dominique Shazia Cotton
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Jordan DeGaetano
NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica Kathleen Dowling
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

Patrick Michael Horgan
BUZZARDS BAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Mark Robert LeMay
TYNGSBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Marc Henry Lewis
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Lesly M. Porras
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Zachary Keith Sawyer
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Y. Stephen
WILBRAHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Angela Marie Sulmonte
ABINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Alicia S. TenPow-Negeri
WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Emily A. DeBlasio
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Catherine Kyle
BOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Katelyn Ann Thebado
NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

PEDAGOGY AND LEARNING

Casey L. Breen
WEST TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Rachel Anne Adams
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Rae Booth
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Brenna Suzanne Champy
WARE, MASSACHUSETTS

Hannah Elizabeth Chieffo
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Ryan Creane
HOLLISTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Roy Cruz
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Cathryn Grace Delaney
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Eileen Frances Delory
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrea Rose DeMeo
STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Cherie S. Durgin
WARWICK, NEW YORK

Gaelin Isabelle Farrell
BALDWINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Katie Marie Fucillo
STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Madelyn Elizabeth Graves
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew H. Gray
MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa Hart
BARRE, MASSACHUSETTS

Julia Elise Howard
SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily A. Kopin
PINE BEACH, NEW JERSEY

Kristie Lynne Lojzim
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Benjamin Alan Lyon
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Julia Dorothy Maderia
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Dayna R. Mallet
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Caitlin E. Martinage
BURLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristy E. Melanson
WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Keeliey Elizabeth Melvin Zompetti
SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Sidney A. Myers
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Tatiana Rose Nygren
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabriela Cristina O'Neil
MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandra Rodriguez
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Clancy Ann Ronan
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Margaret Ryer
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexis Boryczka Shea
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Colin James Smith
NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica Mackey Smith
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Rachel Speelman
APPLE CREEK, OHIO

Samantha C. St. George
WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth A. Stark
RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Deanna J. Tardiff
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Tricia L. Warren
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

School of Health & Natural Sciences

Master of Science

FORENSIC NURSING

Kristin M. Corbett
SOUTH GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa M. Hagen
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Latanya Lynne Hopson
PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS

Shanique C. Lyn Rhoomes
TEMPLE, TEXAS

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.

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES

Our thanks to all our alumni who are participating.

Greetings

1989	Mr. John T. Garten President of the Alumni Association
------	---

Alumni Gonfaloniere

2011	Nicholas D. Smith
------	-------------------

Alumni Representatives

1956	Tim A. Bauman
1973, 1976	Curtis Bates
1983	Francine M. Meigs
1988, 1994, 2019	Bonnie F. McCullough
1991, 1995	Stephen M. Tulli
1995, 2021	Anthony A Crowley
1995, 2002	Sherisa M. Sterling
2001, 2010	Marktavian D. Martin
2011, 2020	Jasmine L. Yang
2022	Swathi Eerala

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAM AWARD



This award recognizes significant contributions made by faculty or faculty emeriti to the graduate programs at Fitchburg State University.

2024 Recipient
Dr. Robert Shapiro
Associate Professor, Education

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2023	Dr. Daniel C. Sarefield, Economics, History, and Political Science
2022	Dr. Xuzhou "Brady" Chen, Computer Science
2021	Dr. James P. Alicata, Engineering Technology
2020	Dr. Daneen P. Deptula, Psychological Science
2019	Joseph E. McAloon, Business Administration

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

In 1894, an act of the legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established the State Normal School in Fitchburg. Its mission was to train teachers to educate the citizens of the future. The Normal School was renamed the State Teachers College at Fitchburg in 1932. In 1935, the college was authorized to establish graduate programs. In June 1938, six graduate students received the first Master of Education degrees, and in August 1938, three more were granted.

Today, Fitchburg State University awards approximately 550 graduate degrees each year. Its highest degree is the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS), which students may pursue after the completion of a master's degree. In addition to the Master of Education and the Master of Arts in Teaching, both of which continue to advance the studies of those in the education field, the university now offers a Master of Arts in Biology, English and History, and the Master of Science in Computer Science, Counseling and Applied Communication, and Construction Management. The Master of Science in Forensic Nursing is offered online, and the Master of Business Administration is offered through a traditional program and online. The university transitioned its first graduate education program, Special Education, to an online/hybrid format in 2014.

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 MEDALLION

The presidential medallion is a symbol of authority and responsibility vested in the office of the president by the Board of Trustees. It is engraved with the names and terms of service of all the past presidents of Fitchburg State University, embodying the legacy of those who have shaped our university into the esteemed institution it is today. The sitting president's nameplate is placed closest to the medallion, signifying their role in carrying forward this legacy of leadership. The medallion is worn by the president at formal academic occasions, representing the president's pledge to preserve and advance the mission of our 130-year-old institution.

Principals / Presidents

2024 – Present	Donna Hodge
2015–2024	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 Communications – White
- Arts Education – Light Blue
- Counseling – White
- Criminal Justice – White
- English Studies – White
- History – White
- Interdisciplinary Studies – White

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

- Business Administration – Drab
- Computer Science – Golden Yellow
- Construction Management – Golden Yellow
- Occupational/Vocational Education – Light Blue

EDUCATION

- Curriculum & Teaching – Light Blue
- Early Childhood Education – Light Blue
- Educational Leadership & Management – Light Blue
- Elementary Education – Light Blue
- Education – Light Blue
- Pedagogy & Learning – Light Blue
- Special Education – Light Blue

HEALTH & NATURAL SCIENCES

- Forensic Nursing – Apricot

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. 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.

IN OLD WACHUSETT'S SHADOW

Words and music by Priscilla (Taylor) McLean, Class of 1963

In Old Wa-chu - sett's Sha - dow our Al - ma Ma - ter stands.
Her proud New Eng - land_ ban - ner_ she holds a - loft to all the land.
Hail to Al - ma Ma - ter! Oh raise her name!
Al - ways may her sons and daugh - ters just - i - fy her fame.



160 Pearl Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420 • www.fitchburgstate.edu