



130TH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

GRADUATE CEREMONY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Fitchburg State University and to this joyous occasion—the graduate ceremony of our 130th 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 your remarkable achievements but a reflection of the strength and support you have each received from this incredible community.

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

To our graduates, this ceremony is a celebration of your dedication. Each of you has embarked on a journey marked by intellectual curiosity and an unwavering commitment to your goals. However, do not view today as a finish line, but rather as the moment you hit your stride. You have established a powerful momentum through the completion of this degree; now is the time to build upon that energy. You have embraced challenges and developed skills that will empower you to make a meaningful impact. Use the drive you perfected here to propel yourselves into your next professional and personal breakthroughs.

This celebration is also for the many others who shared in your journey. To the families and loved ones who have cheered you on, thank you for being the foundation of this success. To our dedicated faculty, librarians, and staff: your passion for mentoring and your commitment to our students have made today possible. We celebrate all of you as well.

Graduates, as you begin the next chapter, know that your education is a foundation for endless possibilities. It is a powerful tool to help you navigate the opportunities ahead. You leave Fitchburg State equipped to innovate, problem-solve, and lead. Harness the momentum of this achievement and embrace your next adventure with courage. The lessons you've learned here will remain with you as you shape a future for yourselves, your families, and your communities.

On behalf of the entire university, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. May your future be filled with success 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



130TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Graduate 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

Tim St. John

Chief Student Affairs Officer

Processional

Innovata Brass

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

Presentation of University Mace and Faculty Gonfalon

Dr. Eric O. Williams

Associate Professor of Biology and Chemistry

2025 recipient of the Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship

Dr. Christopher M. Picone

Professor of Biology and Chemistry

2025 recipient of the Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching

Call to Order

Dr. Franca R. Barricelli

Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

The Star-Spangled Banner

Fitchburg State University Chamber Choir

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

Fitchburg State University Veteran Color Guard

Greetings from the Fitchburg Chapter of the MSCA

Linda LeBlanc

Senior Librarian and Library Program Area Chair

Reflections from the President

Dr. Donna Hodge

Graduate Student Leadership Award

Jossara Dos Santos Dias

Musical Interlude

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

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Donna Hodge

Lynn M. Barrieau

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Dr. Franca R. Barricelli

Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Degree Name Readers

Dr. Rajeev Indira-Nagaraju, Director of Institutional Research

Dr. Erin Rehrig, Professor and Chair of Biology and Chemistry

Dr. Christopher Picone, Professor of Biology and Chemistry Dr.

David Svolba, Associate Professor and Chair of Humanities

Greetings from Alumni

John Garten, Class of 1989

President, Alumni Association

Alma Mater

Fitchburg State University Chamber Choir

“In Old Wachusett’s Shadow”

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

Closing Remarks

Tim St. John

Recessional

Innovata Brass

“Allegro Maestoso,” composed by George Frideric Handel

Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees

Dr. Michael Fiorentino Jr., Chair

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Sheila King-Goodwin

Michael Morris

Shane Rodriguez

Karen J. Spinelli

GRADUATE DEGREES

School of Arts & Sciences

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Pamela S. Berube
WHATELY, MASSACHUSETTS

Lisa Jolene Breton Clyatt
NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

Christine Maura Murphy
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Kylie Stefan
NORTH OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Education Specialist

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Paige Marie Cooper-Sturdevant
UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Arts

ENGLISH

Danielle Elizabeth Afable
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Hannah Mariah Britten
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua Chase Florence
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca Elizabeth Laughlin
PRINCETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Julia Light
WISCASSET, MAINE

Susan Elaine MacDonald
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Janine Ann Pedro
MILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Travis W. Stewart
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

HISTORY

Aidan James Ahearn
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas Angell
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Jelly Chadwick
BOXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Justin Lee Mason
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Gregory William Mezzoni
DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Shay Leeann Mitton
RAYNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Thayer
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Education

ARTS EDUCATION

John Kinney
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

David Michael Rice
MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan Gabriel Ruiz
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Science

APPLIED COMMUNICATION

Louis William Burgos
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Perry J. Joubert
SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Marie Lajoie
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Harriet Nana Yaa Opoku
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lexi Semanchik
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

COUNSELING

Anissa Adwoa Agyei
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Aida Barbara Almenas Rodriguez
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristina Armstrong
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jaimee Allyssa Dalton
BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Cooper Cressy Davis
EAST FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Julie Kristine Jollimore
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Caitlin Jane Loescher
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Peace Owino
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Catherine Marie Puskas
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Julian Ramos
MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Schleper
SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Christina Marie Stanford
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

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Thaymara Fernandes Martins
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew James Morris
LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Tonita Marie Poston
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael J. Sallese
MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Lena Scott
YARMOUTH PORT, MASSACHUSETTS

Alex James Stellato
TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jian Xu
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Business Administration

Jonathan A. Acevedo
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Lacey Jean Ackerman
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Bianca Adam
PINEHURST, MASSACHUSETTS

Paulette Eposi Adande
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY

Theophilus Akuamoah Boateng
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Huda M. Al Khalidi
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Hazim Al Nassar
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Abosede Grace Alabi
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Destiny Kiara Albino
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Fatima Aldape
RIVERVIEW, FLORIDA

Richard A. Aldrich
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Renee P. Algarin
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Glenna R. Allen-Jones
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Mary Alston
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nancy Ama Amankwah
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Bourdillon Ameh
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

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LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

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LONDONDERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BRONX, NEW YORK

Gladys Veronica Angel Miranda
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Appiah
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Paola Arias
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

Syed Arifuddin
LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Shaine Allyson Agripo Arquillano
MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Tracy Aku Shika Aryee
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Javier Asencio-Rodriguez
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GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

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CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Katrina Quin Babcock-Connor
LEBANON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Allison Casey Baker
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Enes Balci
SOGUTLU, TURKEY

Michael A. Baler
NORTH PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

John Martin Baltayan
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Maribeth Barrows
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher K. Barstad
RAYNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Don Marion Quilaquil Basanes
FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Nerla Batrville
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

Steven S. Battle
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Emily Catherine Beauvais
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Rosennette Belzaira
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily R. Belval
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT

Michael Jeffrey Benedict
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

Brandon David Benguaich
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Jewel Benham
DALLAS, TEXAS

Kristin Bere
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

Courtney M. Bergin
VERNON, CONNECTICUT

Brittany O. Best
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Alexandria Irene Bettencourt
WESTPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

Charmine Bien-Aime
EAST BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jefferson Binda Ngimbi
WESTBROOK, MAINE

Nicole C. Blumberg
GEORGETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Yaw Boateng
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Benjamin Bonifacio
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Tanya M. Borges
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Billy W. Boyd
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Agnieszka Teresa Brady
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Austin James Brown
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS

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ROSEAU, DOMINICA

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RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

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HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

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WEST NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

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BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

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SWANSEA, MASSACHUSETTS

Jeffrey Andrew Coletti
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

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CHATHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

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SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Abigail Justine Cruz
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer Lynn Cullen
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Ryan DaCosta
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND

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HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Kylie A. D'Amore
CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS

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PACE, FLORIDA

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Andries Domburg
WOUBRUGGE, NETHERLANDS

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MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

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Ben Dweh
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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ESSEX, MASSACHUSETTS

Joshua Patrick Eaton
TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Joan Ebuwa Eboigbodin
BENIN CITY, NIGERIA

Precious Osamuyimen Eboigbodin
BENIN CITY, NIGERIA

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Alexa Karina Eliason
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Charlotte Jalean Ellis
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Michael J. Enos
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel James Escobar
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Farmer
NORTH BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Talisa Annella Faustini
HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Anthony Daniel Federico
GEORGETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Fedro
RIDGEBLUFF, CONNECTICUT

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WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Samir Addison Fernandes
Dacula, GEORGIA

Amancay A. Ferrari
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Anthony Damian Ferrari
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

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CARNEGIE, PENNSYLVANIA

Mary Bridget Fitzgerald
SCITUATE, RHODE ISLAND

Laureen Mary Flahive
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Jose Rene Flores
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Came'ron Allen Foster
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

David Michael Foster
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

Melissa Jean Francis
GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Irbensky Marc Lory Francois
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Lynne Frasher
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Madison Riley Frye
ABINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Theresa Galanakis
HAVERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Bryan Christopher Gammon
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Garceau
CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Marisol Garcia
RUSKIN, FLORIDA

Karena Anne Garner
DAYVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Sterlin Corey Garvin
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Nadeige Yfka-Ivica Gaston
HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Shaun D. Gavin
HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Michelle L. George
VERNON, NEW JERSEY

Niranjan Ghimire
MOUNT ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY

Stephen Gianelis
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND

Derek Gilman
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel Gerald Gindlesberger
MASSILLON, OHIO

Matthew Alan Glasier
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenna Margaret Goldberg
STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Danna Isabela Gomez
BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Veronica Goncalves
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Ramon Castellon Gonzalez
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Dulce Alejandra Gonzalez Sagastume
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenkin Levi Gould
CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca Govoni
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Uwimana Grace
DAVENPORT, IOWA

Joseph Paul Grant Jr.
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephen Joseph Grassej
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael John Grover
WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS

Jack A. Gruia
MIDDLE VILLAGE, NEW YORK

Juana Massiel Guerra-Diaz
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Rojmi Gurung
BURLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Esther Ayisibea Gyampoh
ADUKROM, GHANA

Emma Esther Hagar
PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan Paul Hanney
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

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BERLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

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JAMAICA, NEW YORK

Brian C. Harte
NEW CUMBERLAND, PENNSYLVANIA

Masud Hasan
CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

Meghan A. Hatcher
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Alexander Justin Healy
MATTHEWS, NORTH CAROLINA

Fritzllyn Hector
HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK

Ian Thomas Hennessey
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Anna-Marie Hernandez
HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Heymann
RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Sie F. Hien
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

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Muhammad Ibrahim
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ASHLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacob Kenneth Irwin
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DIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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HOPKINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Asher I. Jackson
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Divyesh Jani
COLCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

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PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Alex David Jennings
TOLEDO, OHIO

Apoorva Jillella
VISHAKAPATNAM, INDIA

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WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Colleen Ella Johnson
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaylee Rita Johnson
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandra Christine Jones
DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Benjamin Grant Jones
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Arisa A. Jordan
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Derek Glenn Jordan
SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelly Marie Joyce
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan Craig Justin
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Enes B. Kartal
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

David Kadima Kazadi
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Morteza Kazemi
SAN RAMON, CALIFORNIA

Kerry Ann Keaney
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ciabha Kelleher
WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Kerri Ann Kiley
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Marie King
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Anna Marie Kinzel
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Ahmad Bassam Kofahi
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Tejaswini Korapati
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Kaitlin Leah Kornachuk
NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ismael Djiguiba Kouyate
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

Hala Ali Krayem
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Amelia Elizabeth Krisko
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

Richard Anthony Kroll
AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Barbara V. Kulis
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Brandon Lee Labrecque
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Lace
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND

Patrick James LaClair
WESTBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Sandhya Lama Tamang
HASLET, TEXAS

Michelle LaMarre
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jordan C. Lanier
WARREN, OHIO

Dayna Joy Lanza
ROCK HILL, NEW YORK

Angelica Lara
ASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Christopher I. Lara
WALLINGFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

Ashley Anne Lareau
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Janelle Tyler Lawrence
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Katelyn Reilly Leeper
DAVENPORT, IOWA

Roxanne Laila Lemieux
LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA

Catherine M. LePage
SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS

Renee Marie Lessard
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT

Nathaniel W. Lewis
RUSKIN, FLORIDA

Laura Christine Lima
LAKEVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Kimberly Marie Linfield
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Paris Janae Lizana
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Tracy Lauren Lombardi
MILLIS, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica Christina Knowles Long
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

Iracena Lopes
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

Patrick Luckett
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Brennan Christopher Luke
GRIMESLAND, NORTH CAROLINA

Keegan P. Lynch
SOUTH WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Derek Ryan Mackey
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashlee R. Maclean
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Johnson Krupa Kiran
Maddelamanu Surendar
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Corinne Marie Mahoney
DUXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Megan M. Mahoney
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Timothy Michael Mahoney
WEST TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Miranda Maki
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

AnnMarie Manganiello
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Debra Anne Manseau
CHERRY VALLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Aaron Joseph Martin
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Elisabeth Sandrina Martin
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sarah Eileen Martinez
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Thanya Masindi
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Ranjan Maskey
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

James Mathew
NEW HYDE PARK, NEW YORK

Marie Jennifer Mathurin
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS

Bertha Lidia Mayet
KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

Ann Burke McCarthy
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexander Joseph McGillivray
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Sheenia Mchayle
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

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Taylor Lee Fielding
NORTH CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Albert Fiore
NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Meghan Fitzgibbons
CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Timothy William Taylor Foley
REHOBOTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Kayla Marie Francis
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Aidan Thomas Gallagher
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sheila Ann Gianacoplis
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Kelcie Marie Gidley
MIDDLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Grace Kilcommons Gillis
NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Marie Giovanardi
MELROSE, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole Tayla Girard
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Grandmaison
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Jane Gray-Ross
OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Abbey Frances Grealis
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Katrina Ann Green
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Benjamin D. Hanchett
FLORENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Kim Laraine Hansen
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Gina Lucianna Herosian
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew Thomas Hicks
NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Alison Mary Hodge
ROSLINDALE, MASSACHUSETTS

Kweita Holmes
WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Edell Howard
DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah I. Howe
EAST TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mary Kimberlyn Huayta
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Alec Hudson
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Krisela Karaja
WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

Michael Burnham Keyes
BRAintree, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Elizabeth Kissell
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren C. Knight
SOUTH WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Christoph Alexander Knoll
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Peter Roland Kummer
NEEDHAM HEIGHTS, MASSACHUSETTS

Cali E. Laakso
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexander Lariviere-Meader
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher S. Leary
MILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Julia Renee Leblanc
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Berkeley Lile
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Chansavy Lim
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Emma J. Lochhead
EAST WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Sylvester Lynch
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Anne Macleod
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Mary Elizabeth Madigan
MELROSE, MASSACHUSETTS

Olivia Marguerite Maguire
GEORGETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Constantinos Panagiotis Mallios
WINTHROP, MASSACHUSETTS

Shawn Patrick Maloney
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandria Marie Marks
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Brittney Ann Mattson
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Seth Henry McFadyen
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Erin Dorsey McNichols
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Pamela A. Mele
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Niketa S. Melendez
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Raymond Monroe
WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacquelyn Patricia Mirick
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

John Newcomb
CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Jacqueline T. Niosi
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Ryan O'Donnell
NORTH SCITUATE, RHODE ISLAND

Thomas Alexander O'Hanley
HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Joy Mariette Obiageli Okonkwo
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

Riley R. Oliva
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

David W. O'Neil
WHITMAN, MASSACHUSETTS

Sydney Nicole O'Neill
TYNGSBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Abigail Marie Palmgren
RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth A. Parsons
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Matthew A. Parsons
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Katryn M. Pellerin
HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sarah Elizabeth Phillips
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexis Rebecca Poindexter
WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Conor Joseph Pound
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Brendan Joseph Powers
MIDDLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Catherine Anne Proctor
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Mileena Siden Pronh
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Caroline Elizabeth Prud'homme
GOFFSTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Kate Pruner
EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Victoria L. Puglisi
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Raquel M. Ramirez
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Abigail Veronica Rapoza
WHITMAN, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel David Rearick
KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Daniel T. Richards
KINGSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Marlene J. Roman
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Jamey Lynn Rondeau
HARRISVILLE, RHODE ISLAND

Amanda Beth Rooney
GREENVILLE, RHODE ISLAND

Anna J. Rosenfeld
SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS

Olivia Anne Rossetti
BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sony Saintil
REVERE, MASSACHUSETTS

Rania Salem
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Robert James Sargent
WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca Ann Selby
MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren Jean Silbor
UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Anna Claire Silk
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Maxwell Francis Singer
EAST LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Caitlin Elizabeth Sousa
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Robert J. Stanton
NORTH BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Rebecca Deutch Stoe
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael D. Suttner
BARRE, MASSACHUSETTS

Chelsea Anne Swan
UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Susan E. Sweeney
PEMBROKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Julia Synan
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Brenna M. Tobin
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Connie Hantzis Vergados
MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mark W. Vickers Jr.
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Krystle M. Vieira
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Michaela Keilt Waldron
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelly Marie Warner
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth G. West
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher P. White
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Bryan Joseph Wilkins
LONDONDERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Angie Ann Williamson
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Kymberly N. Wilson
EAST TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Alicia Winske
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Valerie Anne Wlodyka
THREE RIVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

Hailey Grace Wood
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Christina Marie Woods
WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Carly M. Ricard
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

EDUCATION 5-12

Drew Edward Balanoff
DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Joshua J. Belli
RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Khadija Boudarse
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Brierley
IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

Emma Maureen Comeaux
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

David W. Crouse
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Megan B. DiVito
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandra Deborah Finnell
STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Damien William Gaudet
UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexis Nicole Hahn
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Renee Hanson
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Johanna Johansson
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Autumn Marie Lombardi
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Allison Michelle Kurvits
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Conor Murphy
NORTH WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha Orlando
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS

Wendy E. Provencial
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jameson Wells Quirk
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

James Ellis Reed
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Cassandra Rose Ahern
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Michelle Pagarigan Albano
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Sarah Elizabeth Angelovski
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Lisa Lauren Antonellis
WHITE HORSE BEACH, MASSACHUSETTS

Larry L. Ballard Jr.
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Thomas R. Bell
NEW BOSTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Christopher Bersaw
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Taylor Jean Bodio
MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

John M. Bucciero
SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Valioda Cacollari
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

John Patriquin Carroll
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Tracy Christine Carter
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Ryan James Cerrato
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Courtney Chase
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher John Coleman
DAEGU, SOUTH KOREA

Chiara Costa
ROMA, ITALY

Sean Kirsten Inocencio Damasco
SEOGWIPO SI JEJU DO, SOUTH KOREA

Danica Alicia Derksen
AIRDRIE, ALBERTA

Cory Desmond
WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Michael Terrence Donovan
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jossara Filomena Dos Santos Dias
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Chadi Hassan El Farkh
SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRITES

Caiden Scott Ellis
SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Teresa Lynn Fiori
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Catherine Helen Garrity
BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA

Jessica Lynn Geary
HARDWICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Brian Gonzalez
TAMPA, FLORIDA

Roger Alan Hagen II
BROOKFIELD, ILLINOIS

Katherine Alexandra Hamilton
NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN

Erik Gerard Henke
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Farah Hilowle
HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel Hopkins
KENTFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Nicole Kimsey
AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Erin Patricia Klemczuk
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica R. Law
PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Dahye Daina Lee
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Marie Janice Lee
GANGNAMGU SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Sang Hyung Elisabeth Lee
SEONGNAM-SI, SOUTH KOREA

Tammy Mai
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

Kevin Joseph Maley
SOUTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Christopher Gustavo Maloney-Perez
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Eileen McCarthy
LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph Michael McCarthy
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Seán Óg Mc Kiernan
SEONGNAM-SI, SOUTH KOREA

Melissa DuPuis Megnia
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Megan Amanda Monroe
SOUTH GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT

Kimberly Moreton
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Ornela Mullalli
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian Marie Nelson
GROVELAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Danielle Margaret Nickerson
NORTH BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Kiser Norman, Jr.
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Benjamin Thomas O'Connor
AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Eniola Oreoluwa Ogunlade
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Voula I. Papageorgiou
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Susan Marie Pemberton
ROMA, ITALY

Francis Devon Phillips
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sofia Alexandra Pileggi
CANTON, OHIO

Dale Rickardo Plotzki
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Kyle W. Porter
UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Brenda Joyce Ramsey
DORCHESTER CENTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer L. Reidy
PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Steven M. Sackmann
SANDOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Benjamin C. Sattiewhite
NORTH EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Taylor R. Shelton
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Janae Solomon
ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Leon Strydom
YEONSU GU, SOUTH KOREA

Patrick David Sullivan
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Lauren Lois Svensen
SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS

Kylie A. Thomas
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ilan Vaisman
SEONGNAM-SI, SOUTH KOREA

Jabeen Wang
DAEGU, SOUTH KOREA

Raphael O. Williams
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Michelle M. Anderson
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Sara M. Blakeley
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Kurt Fahy
DUNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca Elizabeth Hahn
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenna Iachetta
WEST YARMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Erin Mellor
HARDWICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Libby C. Morel
PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

James N. Parsons
SHUTESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Tanya Marie Rowan
STERLING, MASSACHUSETTS

Tara Marie Whiting
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

PEDAGOGY & LEARNING

Jessica Marie Blouin
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole A. Bourgeois
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Molly Katherine Branagan-Dee
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Megan Rose Carmody
HULL, MASSACHUSETTS

Kayleigh Kate Carter
SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sarah Esther Cohen
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Kevin Connolly
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Carey Lynne Damon-Aleman
LAKEVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph L. DeVeau Jr.
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian Marie Dorney
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Leah M. Faria
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

James M. Greeley
AUBURNDALE, MASSACHUSETTS

Allison N. Hamel
OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

David J. Klingenstein
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Ledda Marissa Krauss
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Chinki Kumari
NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Shannon Estelle McCormack
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Nathan D. Miller
CARVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sally L. Morrill
NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Thonachan Nuon
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Travis Miles Perrett
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew K. Pottorff
BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mariel S. Queally
PEMBROKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Kathleen Marie Rappa
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Lynn Ressler
WOODSTOCK VALLEY, CONNECTICUT

Emily Marie Rutowicz
EAST FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabrielle Marie Trimberger
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Ericha Jean Whitham
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Wednesday L. Zyla
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Carly Frances Adams
WRENTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Sean R. Agustynowicz
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Michelle Jean Alton
MASON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Kimberly A. Barbaro
BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Emma Louise Barry
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas John Bassett
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Rachel Kathryn Besaw
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Emmalee Louise Binette
NORTH GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT

Matthew Thomas Blom
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS

Brittney A. Boudreau
MILLIS, MASSACHUSETTS

Rita D. Briggs
KINGSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Alison Christine Brown
AMESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Samantha L. Bliss
LEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Alyssa Brianna Cappiello
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle P. Caraher
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

Suzanne M. Casaletto
NORTH READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Nicole Catalano
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Kaitlyn Louise Cenci
MAUMEE, OHIO

Lauren Elise Cernoia
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Melanie Gabriela Chin
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Stacy K. Cole
LUMBERTON, NEW JERSEY

Karen Marie Crumb
REISTERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Chloe Maria Current
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Meredith Cushman
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jessica Doucette
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicole M. Driscoll
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Christopher Norman Feeley
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Emma Filippelli
WESTBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Jillian Patricia Finger
WESTBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Carolyn Elizabeth Fitzgerald
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Gabrielle E. Foshay
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Julie Ann Freitas
WEST NEWBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Georgette Ifigenia Gomez Baugh
SPRING, TEXAS

Stephanie Marie Hennigan
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Katelyn A. Jenson
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Claudia C. Jo
KENILWORTH, NEW JERSEY

Alexis Layla Khalaj-Depina
STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kayla Catherine King
DUMMERSTON, VERMONT

Sarah Kleeman
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Brigid Klein
OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND

Angeline Candy Kubahn
BALDWINVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Danielle Marie Lally
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Aarin Lipner-Riza
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Elsa Manjooran
JUFFAIR, SAUDI ARABIA

Michelle C. Mehrstens
HERRIMAN, UTAH

Chad Michael Mitchell
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Giavanna Maria Moretto
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Kevin Mulcahy
MIDDLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

MaryClaire C. Munoz
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Amy L. Natarelli
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Tyler Garrett Nelson
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Edmund Malcolm Neumeier
CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Madeline Mary Normand
LEICESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Laura E. O'Malley
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Kym Ortega
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Jessica T. Pike
TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Cynthia Irene Plouffe
HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sydney Alexandra Rainville
AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Isa Rebholz
NEW IPSWICH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alexandra Rodriguez
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Juana Maria Rodriguez
KILLEEN, TEXAS

Jillian Anne Roy
SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS

Rachel Sanniti
CHARDON, OHIO

Andrea L. Skawinski
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Sophia Slack
LAKEVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Bonnie Standring
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Leah Maxine Star
NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Ryan Tonelli
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jenna V. Topping
NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Hannah L. Vaillancourt
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Evlyn Wa
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

Katherine Thayer Willson
PROVO, UTAH

Vah Xiong
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Xena Xiong
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

School of Health & Natural Sciences

Master of Science

FORENSIC NURSING

Barbara Ann Clemons
HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Brenna M. Davies
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Kenya Price
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Annelies Gerda Mirjam
Stevens-de Jong
EAGAN, MINNESOTA

Erin Lorenz Terkanian
STANDISH, MAINE

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.

GRADUATE STUDENT
LEADERSHIP AWARD

Jossara Dos Santos Dias
M.Ed. in Educational Leadership



The Graduate Student Leadership Award is presented to a student who exemplifies the highest standards of academic excellence, service, and professional mentorship. This year, Fitchburg State University is proud to honor Jossara Dos Santos Dias, a Boston resident completing her Master of Education in Educational Leadership. As the university celebrates its 130th commencement exercises, Dias represents the peak of graduate achievement and the spirit of selfless guidance within the campus community and beyond.

A dedicated advocate for inclusive education, Dias serves as the STEM Education Senior Coordinator at Vertex Pharmaceuticals. In this role, she works tirelessly to ignite a passion for biotechnology in high school students, transforming complex scientific concepts into accessible career paths. By leveraging her bilingualism, she has dismantled language barriers that often hinder student success, empowering a diverse new generation of professionals to envision themselves as future leaders in the STEM fields.

Dias was selected for her holistic approach to leadership, as her impact extends far beyond her own academic accomplishments. Throughout her time at Fitchburg State, Dias fostered a supportive and inclusive environment for her peers, demonstrating a profound commitment to educational equity and community strength.

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES

Our thanks to all our alumni who are participating.

Greetings

1989 John T. Garten
President of the Alumni Association

Alumni Gonfaloniere

2018 Seferine A. Baez
President-Elect of the Alumni Association

Alumni Representatives

1973, 1976 Curtis Bates
1983 Francine M. Meigs
1991, 1995 Stephen M. Tulli
1995, 2021 Tony A. Crowley
1995, 2002 Sherisa M. Sterling
1998 Tracy L. Markwell
2001 Dagne Hall
2011 Nick D. Smith
2023 Venkata Sai Tarun Nellutla
2025 Arthur S. Xia

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.

2025 Recipient
Dr. Beverley A. Hollingsworth
Professor, Business Administration
Chair, MBA Program

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2024	Dr. Robert L. Shapiro, Education
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 Communication – White
- Arts Education – Light Blue
- Counseling – White
- Criminal Justice – White
- English – 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
- Education – Light Blue
- Educational Leadership & Management – Light Blue
- Elementary 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 Egerly 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.



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