



**55TH ANNUAL**

# Graduation Ceremony

**THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021**

**Capital District  
Educational Opportunity Center**

A division of Hudson Valley Community College  
University Center for Academic and Workforce Development  
State University of New York

# Graduation Program

## PROCESSIONAL

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

## MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Barbara Talbot, *Counselor*

## GREETINGS

Dr. Lucille Marion, *Vice President/Executive Director*

Dr. Roger Ramsammy, *President, Hudson Valley Community College*

Neil Kelleher, *Chairman, Hudson Valley Community College Board of Trustees*

Lisa McKay, *Associate Provost and Director, University Center for  
Academic and Workforce Development*

## STUDENT SPEAKER

Rebecca Rosa, *HSE Preparation and Medical Office Administration*

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Students of Excellence, Service Awards, CAPTAINS Awards, Scholarship Awards

Amy Conley, *Program Coordinator*

### Alliance Awards

Kyle Colangelo-Garcia, *Instructor*

and

Barbara Talbot, *Counselor*

## PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

**BEST WISHES TO ALL THE GRADUATES!**

**SUNY, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Jim Malatras, *Chancellor*

Dr. John L. Graham, *Senior Advisor to the Chancellor, Student Advocate*

**UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ACADEMIC  
AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Lisa McKay, *Associate Provost and Director*

**HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Dr. Roger Ramsammy, *President*

**HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Neil J. Kelleher, *Chairman*

Judith H. Breselor

Philip J. Danaher

William F. Fagan

Flora Fasoldt

Thomas P. Grant

Dr. William C. Jennings

Wayne L. Pratt

Brian Zweig

Reese A. Harrison, *Student Trustee*

George J. Raneri, *Secretary to the Board*

Suzanne Kalkbrenner, *Assistant Secretary to the Board*

# Educational Opportunity Centers

## BRONX

Ronnie Hector  
*Executive Director*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
Bronx Community College

## BROOKLYN

Jacinth Hanson, Ed.D  
*Executive Director*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
New York City College of Technology

## BUFFALO

Julius Gregg Adams, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
University at Buffalo

## CAPITAL DISTRICT

Lucille Marion, Ph.D.  
*Vice President/Executive Director*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
Hudson Valley Community College

## LONG ISLAND

Charles Miranda  
*Interim Director/Dean*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
Farmingdale State College

## MANHATTAN

Anthony Watson  
*Executive Director*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
Borough of Manhattan  
Community College

## NORTH BRONX CAREER & COUNSELING OUTREACH CENTER

T. Mitchen Duren  
*Director*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
University Center for Academic  
and Workforce Development

## QUEENS

Khayriyyah H. Ali  
*Executive Director*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
York College

## ROCHESTER

Roosevelt Mareus, Ph.D.  
*Dean/Executive Director*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
State University of New York  
at Brockport

## SUNY COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING CENTER

DeShawn McGarrity, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
SUNY Schenectady  
County Community College

## SYRACUSE

Tim Penix  
*Vice President*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
Morrisville State College

## WESTCHESTER

Gina Gaines, Ed.D.  
*Associate Dean/Director*

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:  
Westchester Community College



# Capital District Educational Opportunity Center

## ADMINISTRATION

Lucille Marion, Ph.D.  
*Vice President/Executive Director*

Debbie Garrett-Hazapis  
*Associate Director*

Elaine Harwood  
*Coordinator of Institutional Advancement,  
Interim Coordinator of Student Services*

Carol Meyer, Ph.D.  
*Coordinator of Instructional Services*

Amy Conley  
*Program Coordinator*

Catherine Johnson  
*Program Coordinator*

Melissa Thomas  
*Associate Coordinator of  
Business Services*

Wendy Carpenter  
*Assistant Coordinator of  
Student Services – Testing*

Pamela Harris  
*Assistant Coordinator of Student  
Services – College and Career Services*

Kevin Killikelly  
*Assistant Coordinator of  
Student Services – Enrollment*

## STAFF

Kaitlin Beam  
*Counselor*

Kelly Bunkley  
*ATTAIN Lab Technology Coordinator*

Deborah Cohen  
*Enrollment Services Specialist*

Jennifer Cook  
*Technical Assistant*

Elizabeth Cowan  
*Clerk/Typist*

## Staff continued

Ellen Eisenbraun  
*Tutor*

Delia Hubbard  
*ATTAIN Lab Technology Coordinator*

Raymond Jackson  
*TASC Test Examiner*

Charles Lozo  
*Building Maintenance Worker*

Chasity Mansourian  
*Secretary I*

Amanda Miller-Kalbfliesh  
*Security Officer*

Victoria Moran  
*Assistant to the Coordinator  
for Instructional Services*

Scott Murray  
*Custodial Worker*

Benjamin Petrone  
*Motor Equipment Operator Light, (Courier)*

Simone Rodriguez  
*Counselor*

Elizabeth Stamas-Genthner  
*Senior Clerk*

Amber Sullivan  
*Enrollment Services Specialist*

Barbara Talbot  
*Counselor*

Daniel Vitro  
*Custodial Worker*

Sheryl Waterbury  
*Senior Account Clerk/Typist*

Scharlette Wilkins  
*TASC Test Examiner*

Romeo Williams  
*Custodial Worker*

## FACULTY

Diane Arrington-Stokem  
*Associate Professor*

Toby Bashaw  
*Instructor*

Kari Benn  
*Instructor*

Judith Bowers  
*Assistant Professor*

Kyle Colangelo  
*Instructor*

Erin Coy  
*Instructor*

Joseph Forget  
*Associate Professor*

Lakisha Foy  
*Instructor*

Thomas Glasser  
*Assistant Professor*

Douglas Ivey  
*Assistant Professor*

Kelly Sambrook  
*Instructor*

Frances VonHolten  
*Instructor*

## The Presidential Medallion

Chains of office are commonly worn in Europe by rectors and other presiding officials of universities. These chains are works of art because of the materials used and the craft involved in their making. Hudson Valley Community College has taken this concept and opted to use a medal and chain to represent the college and commemorate the inauguration of a new president.

The medallion bears the college seal on the front and the names and terms of past presidents of the college on the back. The medallion was designed by Gregory Dolan, former adjunct instructor in the Criminal Justice Department. The medallion was a gift to the college from the Department Chairpersons Association.



## The College Mace

The Hudson Valley Community College Mace symbolizes the dignity and authority of the college. Until 1973, Hudson Valley Community College, as a unit of the State University of New York, used the SUNY Mace in all academic processions. In 1973, acting on the wishes of retired first president Otto V. Guenther, then-president James J. Fitzgibbons and his vice president for student affairs, Ralph H. O'Brien, asked Dr. Joseph F. Marcelli, the dean of the college, to design a mace and supervise its making. Dr. Marcelli envisioned a mace with a classical 16th-century appearance. In keeping with the definition of a mace as both a weapon of war and symbol of sovereignty, he determined that the Hudson Valley Community College Mace would incorporate both of those qualities. The mace rod is a fasces, the Roman symbol of authority and power, topped by an eagle, used as an ensign by the Roman army. The College Mace is the official staff of office used in all academic ceremonies.



# 2020-21 Graduates

## BUILDING TRADES

Joshua Bosso  
Darren Brod  
Nathalie Cherissaint  
Walter Darman  
Clint Junco  
Glen Lambert

Bay Lar  
Allen Lemons  
Khalid Mahmoud  
James Mele  
Narshya Nelson

Devin Norman  
Benjamin Seeley  
Eh Pwe Soe  
Joshua Thompson <sup>U</sup>  
Richard Velazquez

## CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

Kelci Barton <sup>U,HR</sup>  
Caitlyn Carlson <sup>U</sup>  
Imani Francis  
Renee Frost

Zyleaha Holton  
Azzaria Monroe <sup>U</sup>  
Jennifer Powell  
Lara Purcell

James Sharpe  
Jasmyn Smith  
Amelia Stickelmyer

## COLLEGE PREPARATION

Nicholas Cartwright \*

## COSMETOLOGY

Mercedes Arce  
Ebanicia Coleman  
Shawnte Ellis  
Brianna Giaminelli  
Gabriella Gorman \*  
Aaliyah Howard

Sherrina Jacobs  
Dynasty McCormick-Bass  
Chelsea Mondun  
Ije Ninstant <sup>U,HR</sup>  
Alasia Pierre

Keasia Rogers  
Deauna Smith <sup>U</sup>  
Honey Grace Treyes <sup>U,HR</sup>  
Nickeisha Vaughn

## CULINARY ARTS

Jacob Nolan

## HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PREPARATION

Vanessa Atchinson  
Jessica Baker  
Jessica Balkis  
Aveasha Benn

Duane Bouck <sup>U</sup>  
Alisha Budhoo  
Brittany Capers  
Kassandra Chapman

Elohim Clayton  
Brooke Cooney <sup>U</sup>  
Mario Delaconcha <sup>U,HR</sup>  
Paris Ellison

### KEY

U - University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD) Certificate of Achievement, presented to graduates who have earned an average of "B" or better in one or more programs

HR - Educational Opportunity Center Honor Roll, presented to graduates who have earned an average of "A" or better; all Honor Roll recipients also receive a UCAWD Certificate of Achievement

\* - Accepted to college

† - Earned one or more Microsoft Office Specialist certifications through the ATTAIN Computer Lab

### HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PREPARATION CONTINUED

Rochavia Green	Yreffie Mason	Billiejo Sass
Angela Hall	Yvonne Mason	Jasmyn Smith
Joshua Haynes	Sade Miller *	Susan Stevens
Daivea Hemingway	Rondasia Morton	Donald Tanksley
Andrea Hollar	Shannon Murphy <sup>U</sup>	Ana Tavarez
Branden Hollar	Deidre Nadeau	Carla Torres <sup>U</sup>
Michael Iwanos	Kristal Nash	Amanda VanVranken <sup>U</sup>
Raymond Keefer	Christopher Nazario	Alyssa Vroman
Elquan King	Paris Parodie	Carrie Vuignier <sup>U</sup>
Jazmine Kinzer	Iram Parveen <sup>U, HR</sup>	Mary Washington
Tenika Leigh <sup>U</sup>	Jennifer Phelan *	Genesis Webb
Vanessa Lewis	Theodore Randall	Ann Marie Willsey <sup>U</sup>
Bessie Mabee	Chawnta Robinson <sup>U</sup>	Jose Young
Katelyn Martin	Raymond Rodriguez	

### INTRODUCTION TO HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

Thaer Alchaar <sup>U</sup>	Anthony Hardy	Nahquayvia Saunders
Jinan Alkarkhi <sup>U, HR</sup>	Fatat Hasson <sup>U, HR</sup>	Yaimara Serrano-Garcia
Noreen Boyd	Michica Holland	Muku Shee
Hopie Cruz	Aayat Ibrahim <sup>U, HR</sup>	Kathleen Stafford
Uryeiah Douglas	Kenneth Johnson	Richard Veronese
Abdelsatar Goda <sup>U, HR</sup>	Chawnta Robinson <sup>U</sup>	Neal Washburn

### MATH PREPARATION

Brooke Cooney <sup>U</sup>	Kristal Nash	Carrie Vuignier <sup>U</sup>
Mario Delaconcha <sup>U, HR</sup>	Tahira Pittman	Richelle Williams
Branden Hollar	Susan Stevens	Shaynequa Wilson
Vanessa Lewis	Clementina Vieira	Jose Young
Shannon Murphy <sup>U</sup>		

### MEDICAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Zakiyyah Ramos	Rebecca Rosa <sup>U</sup>	Shadaya Shelby
Branden Reinhardt	Cristina Santana	Anastasia Wickline
Chawnta Robinson <sup>U</sup>		

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## NATIONAL WORK READINESS

Jasmine Aguilar	Ronya Jackson	Kazyia Reid
Ahmedshah Amin	Sherrina Jacobs	Keasia Rogers
Juan Aviles	Mary Jones	Rebecca Rosa <sup>U</sup>
Mohamed Badani	Clint Junco	Edicson Sandoval
lasia Belle	Glen Lambert	Benjamin Seeley
Lauren Bentley	Mecca Lucas	Deauna Smith <sup>U</sup>
Joshua Bosso	Khalid Mahmoud	Shamani Spell <sup>U</sup>
Darren Brod	Mark McKoy	Joshua Thompson <sup>U</sup>
Tracy Brown	James Mele	Honey Grace Treyes <sup>U,HR</sup>
Jayahntee Bullock	Jose Mendez <sup>U</sup>	Justin Tufts <sup>U,HR</sup>
Makai Cruel	Chelsea Mondun	Maria Valentine
Shawnte Ellis	Rose Mosley	Robert Valet
Ryan Foster	Narshya Nelson	Matthew Vasquez
Brianna Giaminelli	Ije Ninstant <sup>U,HR</sup>	Nickeisha Vaughn
Gabrielle Harris	Quanessa Nobles	Richard Velazquez
Hannah Hastings	Jade Parker	Jamiya Wilson
Aaliyah Howard	Jiovanni Quarshie	

## PRE-HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

Shawn Benway	Jinan Alkarkhi	Sade Miller
Chaniece Coleman	Savette Gardner	Deidre Nadeau
April Hogan	Adwa Ghazi	Iram Parveen <sup>U</sup>
Angelica Santiago <sup>U</sup>	Sayed Hashemi	Chawnta Robinson
Sheila Santos	Viacheslav Homanov	Billiejo Sass
Skyler Stinson	Vanessa Lewis	Richelle Williams
Carrie Vuignier <sup>U</sup>	Ashley Matos	Jose Young
Mary Washington		

## PRE-COLLEGE PREPARATION

Erika Diggs	Kee Man	Mina Shamloo
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## SECURITY GUARD - 16 HOUR

Ruthann Ali	Marques Goodbee	Isiah Scales
Jennifer Bates	Freddie Robinson	Lizzie Young
Mario Delaconcha <sup>U,HR</sup>	Aaron Ross	

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### SECURITY GUARD - 8 HOUR

Ruthann Ali  
William Austin  
Jennifer Bates  
Mario Delaconcha  
Benjamin Emmich

Marques Goodbee  
Roger Malloy  
Tamir Reed  
Freddie Robinson

Isiah Scales  
Barry Warren Jr  
Alex Wilks  
Lizzie Young

### VOCATIONAL PREPARATION

Elaine Chum  
Shawnte Ellis  
Johaleyka Gonzalez

Alisha Jackson  
Kendra McCoy

Marquis McNeil  
Kiara Mills

### WELDING

Christopher Champagne  
Ryan Foster  
Edward Johnson

Gerald Mash  
Jose Mendez <sup>U</sup>  
Alexander Moreno <sup>U</sup>

Nathanial Taylor  
Robert Valet

### WELDING UPGRADE

Champagne Christopher

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**KEY**

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# Students of Excellence

Students of Excellence awards are presented to students who consistently exemplify a positive attitude, solid work habits, and high-quality workmanship. These important attributes have allowed these students to be successful at the EOC and will be carried with them into the future, in college or in the workplace.

Students of Excellence are awarded yellow cords.

## **BUILDING TRADES**

Joshua Bosso  
Clint Junco

## **CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT**

Kelci Barton

## **COLLEGE PREPARATION**

Nicholas Cartwright

## **COSMETOLOGY**

Aaliyah Howard  
Keasia Rogers

## **CULINARY ARTS**

Jacob Nolan

## **HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PREPARATION**

Raymond Keefer  
Ann Marie Willsey

## **INTRODUCTION TO HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY**

Chawnta Robinson  
Muku Shee

## **MATH PREPARATION**

Brooke Cooney  
Shaynequa Wilson

## **MEDICAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

Rebecca Rosa  
Shadaya Shelby

## **PRE-COLLEGE PREPARATION**

Erika Diggs  
Kee Man

## **PRE-HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY**

Jinan Alkarkhi  
Vanessa Lewis

## **VOCATIONAL PREPARATION**

Shawnte Ellis  
Marquis McNeil

## **WELDING**

Jose Mendez  
Nathaniel Taylor  
Robert Valet

# 2020–21 Graduates' CAPTAINS Awards

CAPTAINS awards are given to students who demonstrate leadership in the following areas: COMMUNICATION, ATTITUDE, PROBLEM-SOLVING, TEAMWORK, ATTENDANCE, INITIATIVE, NEIGHBORLINESS, SPIRIT/SERVICE. Students may be nominated by their peers or EOC staff members, and they have the opportunity to earn an award in each category.

CAPTAINS are awarded red cords.

## COMMUNICATION

Rebecca Rosa

## ATTITUDE

Jinan Alkarkhi  
Brooke Cooney  
Hopie Cruz  
Uryeiah Douglas  
Fatat Hasson  
Viacheslav Homanov  
Bessie Mabee  
Chawnta Robinson  
Angelica Santiago  
Yaimara Serrano-Garcia  
Muku Shee  
Richard Veronese  
Carrie Vuignier  
Jose Young  
Vieira Clementina

## PROBLEM-SOLVING

-

## TEAMWORK

-

## ATTENDANCE

Anthony Hardy

## INITIATIVE

Noreen Boyd  
Vieira Clementina  
Abdelsatar Goda  
Raymond Keefer  
Shaynequa Wilson

## NEIGHBORLINESS

Juan Aviles  
Aayat Ibrahim  
Edward Johnsonn  
Honey Grace Treyes

## SPIRIT/SERVICE

Ellis Shawnte  
Tufts Justin  
Valet Robert

# Alliance Awards

Alliance Awards nominations are submitted by EOC faculty, tutors and counselors. Selections are made by committee based on exceptional attendance, citizenship, attitude, scholarship, perseverance and personal growth.

Kelci Barton      Justin Tufts      Sheynequa Wilson

# Recognition of Service to the EOC

Shawnte Ellis      Rebecca Rosa

# Foundation Scholarships

The following Capital District EOC alumni were selected by the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation to receive scholarships during the 2020–2021 year.

## **HOLLIE SHARP LAINHART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Gabriella Gorman      Najla Danishyer

## **DR. JOSEPH J. BULMER EOC SCHOLARSHIP**

Fatemah Amiri      Priscilla Donkor

## **RICHARD J. SPENCE HEALTH SERVICES CAREER SCHOLARSHIP**

Fatemah Amiri

Scholarships are provided through the Educational Opportunity Center Endowment Fund and the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation. Gifts from alumni, corporations and friends are welcomed and appreciated. For more information about the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation or the Educational Opportunity Center fund, contact Elaine Harwood (e.harwood@hvcc.edu) Coordinator for Institutional Advancement.

June 24, 2021

Greetings,

Today we celebrate the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center's **55th** Graduation Ceremony. We congratulate our graduates, who, through their hard work, dedication, commitment and sacrifice, have achieved an important milestone in their lives. We also recognize with appreciation, the encouragement and contributions each student has received from family and friends who have offered support toward the achievement of this goal.

This 2021 graduation marks the second year in a row in which the EOC and its students undertook their work in an environment in which they also needed to respond to life in the midst of a pandemic. This has not been easy. The graduates who we recognize today have overcome many hurdles to reach this educational goal. They have undertaken their studies while balancing life demands and challenges like no other time in their lives.

We all look forward to the day when we can resume activities and classes without the need to socially distance or wear masks. We look forward as well to the time when remote instruction is something a student elects to do rather than it being the only way to participate in class. These are just a few of the additional challenges our graduates have had to deal with this past year. Yet, even under these restrictions our graduates have shown that they can not only persist but excel. Through the accomplishments experienced throughout their time at the EOC, and certainly as measured by their graduation from their program today, our graduates serve as a role model and example to their friends and family that I hope inspires others to similarly take risks – no matter how challenging the world around them is at the time. Because with commitment, hard work, and an eye to the future, anything is possible.

This year's graduates are now part of the more than 65,000 alumni of the EOC. We thank all of our students, past and present, for choosing to enroll in the EOC and for giving us the privilege of working with you. The EOC remains committed to assisting our graduates even after they leave us; because, once you are part of the EOC family, you remain part of our family. Like any family, we look forward to growing even more by adding new members. Please let others know about the EOC and all it has to offer and encourage them to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that are available through the center's educational and training programs and comprehensive support services.

As with any family, we proudly share the news of the success that our family members achieve. We look forward to highlighting the success stories of our 2021 graduates, as well as any of our prior year graduates, so please stay in touch with us and let us know of your accomplishments. We are confident there will be many to report.

Today is a new beginning and with it we extend our best wishes for a future filled with personal success and prosperity!

Congratulations!



Lucille Marion, Ph.D.  
Vice President/Executive Director

**Educational Opportunity Center**

A Division of Hudson Valley Community College // State University of New York  
431 River Street // Troy, NY 12180 // (518) 273-1900 // (518) 270-4730 // [www.hvcc.edu/eoc](http://www.hvcc.edu/eoc)



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Roger A. Ramsammy, Ph.D.

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President

June 24, 2021

Congratulations, graduates, on today's remarkable milestone and your incredible success at the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center! It is truly wonderful to celebrate this occasion with you as well as your family and friends.

On behalf of the Hudson Valley Community College trustees, faculty and administrators, I am delighted to recognize your tremendous dedication, determination, and persistence to achieve new academic and career goals. My hope that you will always remember this joyous moment, and build on your success at the EOC.

Many EOC alumni continue to pursue their education and become outstanding students at Hudson Valley, while others begin new careers or open businesses of their own after graduation. No matter what you choose to do, please know that you are well prepared with the knowledge, skills and confidence you have gained during your time at the EOC.

Please stay in touch with your instructors, staff and friends who supported you along the way, and share your successes with us and out in your community. As a new graduate, you are one of our best ambassadors and advocates.

Congratulations again on this very special occasion, and I wish you the very best in all of your future endeavors!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature appears to read "Roger A. Ramsammy".

Roger A. Ramsammy, Ph.D.  
President



**Dr. Jim Malatras**  
Chancellor

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building  
Albany, New York 12246

[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

**June 24, 2021**

**To the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center Graduating Class of 2021:**

In looking back at your journey with SUNY's Capital District Educational Opportunity Center, be proud of what you have achieved. In the best of times, enrolling in an EOC is a bold move. It demonstrates that you believe you can achieve whatever you set out to accomplish, no matter the obstacles in your way. To make that type of decision and declaration in the midst of a global health crisis? That is more than bold – it is courageous.

Even as the SUNY community was forced to adapt quickly to the pause of regular operations and instruction on our campuses, you didn't shy away from what was ahead. You balanced so much – children home from school needing supervision; family needing medical care; your own safety at risk every time you stepped outside – and in spite of all the adversity, you marched forward toward your goals to achieve great success.

That first step of enrolling at the Capital District EOC has been followed by progress to the certificate of completion you hold today. From your first meeting with EOC support staff, to your first day of class, the assessments along the way and all the bonds you have built in between, you have proven to the world what you knew about yourself all along – you are unstoppable.

Whether you participated through the SUNY Online Training Center, or in remote or hybrid programming at the Capital District EOC, your graduation today is a testament to the power of your ambition and perseverance. Keep striving to do more. I can't wait to see what you accomplish next.

On behalf of the entire SUNY community, I'm proud of all you've accomplished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Malatras".

Jim Malatras  
Chancellor





To the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center Class of 2021:

Dear Graduate,

It is my sincere pleasure to join the faculty, staff and students in recognizing you today on your tremendous accomplishment. As you know, the Educational Opportunity Centers were founded to help students to reimagine themselves and become successful in an increasingly competitive marketplace. As you reflect on your commitment and perseverance, please be reminded that you have changed your career trajectory not only for yourself, but for your family. My greatest hope is that you will continue this positive journey to reach your full potential. Please thank your faculty members for giving you the analytical, technical and soft skills that are necessary for you to become gainfully employed or continue with your academic endeavors.

There are many people that played a role in your success today, our mission and vision is predicated on the hope that you will take full advantage of this opportunity and help us to identify other students to consider the transformative value of the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center.

EOC graduates are the truest testament of SUNY's ability to move our communities, state and nation forward. As SUNY's Student Advocate, I am truly humbled by what you have accomplished. I wish you and your family exceedingly well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John L. Graham".

Dr. John L. Graham  
Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and  
Student Advocate



June 24, 2021

To the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center Class of 2021:

Summer is always a time of hope and optimism, with the promise of growth and renewal in our sights. In 2021, our families and communities are desperate for a cause to celebrate and an occasion to surround ourselves with positivity.

Today, you have delivered that hope and positivity to all of your loved ones and everyone around you. Our EOC's across New York State are special and unique, but are connected by several common threads. The resilience, courage, toughness and talent of our students are ties that bind us from Buffalo to Long Island and everywhere in between. By completing your program, you are forever a part of that rich tradition of excellence.

As an EOC graduate, you exemplify the growth and renewal we yearn for in the summer. You have grown through challenges and struggles, learned from mistakes, conquered obstacles beyond your control and completed your program to become a new you – full of confidence, prepared for higher education or the workforce, and ready to meet your next chapter in life head-on.

The faculty and staff at the Capital District EOC have poured themselves into you, because they believed in your mind, heart and spirit from the day you applied to your program. With your program complete and certificate in hand, I know they are proud to say – “we were right all along!”

Celebrate this tremendous accomplishment, because you have earned it. Carry this joy with you, because I promise you that your story remains unwritten. I could not be more proud of what you have achieved, or more excited to see where your new skills will take you. Each summer, remember the hope and optimism you felt today, and attack the chance for growth and renewal the way you have at the Capital District EOC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa L. McKay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms. Lisa L. McKay  
Associate Provost and Director  
University Center for Academic  
and Workforce Development

**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**

**VICE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

**CHAIR**

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

**CO-CHAIR**

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION

**MEMBER**

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON RURAL  
RESOURCES



**NEIL D. BRESLIN**

SENATOR, 44TH DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**

BANKS

ETHICS AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

FINANCE

CITIES 2

JUDICIARY

RULES

June 24, 2021

State University of New York  
Capital District Educational Opportunity Center  
431 River Street  
Troy, New York 12180

Dear Graduates:

I am proud to extend my sincere congratulations to you as a new graduate from the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center. The hard work you have devoted yourselves to has led to this tremendous accomplishment and brings you one step closer to attaining your future goals. You can, rightfully, be proud of this significant triumph.

Everyone celebrating with you today takes great pride in your achievements. I applaud you for your efforts that have brought you to this wonderful day. I wish you well in your next endeavor.

Once again, congratulations on this very special occasion and strong wishes for good health and happiness. Best wishes!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil D. Breslin".

Neil D. Breslin  
Member of Senate





JOHN T. McDONALD III  
Assemblymember 108<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Oversight, Analysis &  
Investigations  
COMMITTEES  
Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
Health  
Higher Education  
Insurance  
Real Property Taxation  
Ways and Means

June 24, 2021

Dear Graduates:

On behalf of the New York State Assembly, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you individually and collectively as graduates of the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center. I share with you the excitement as you travel a new journey to where your dreams may lead you.

Tomorrow's next steps are filled with opportunity and challenges. There will be laughs, tears, good times and bad, and most of all opportunities to make a difference in not only your life but also in the lives of others. When you have those opportunities to make a difference, I hope you embrace them head on with kindness. When I reflect on kindness, I think back to a quote from the noted philosopher and 17th century leader William Penn:

***"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness or abilities that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."***

Once again, congratulations on your fine achievements and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

John T. McDonald III  
Member of Assembly



**Wm. Patrick Madden**  
*Mayor, City of Troy*

**Office of the Mayor**  
City Hall  
433 River Street  
Troy, New York 12180

Phone: (518) 279-7130  
Fax: (518) 270-4546  
mayorsoffice@troyny.gov

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June 24, 2021

Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the city of Troy, I extend my sincerest congratulations on the occasion of your graduation from the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center (EOC).

Today's accomplishment represents an important first step toward your new career and a credit to all your hard work and sacrifices made to achieve this goal. In addition, this achievement recognizes the unique challenges you faced, and overcame, during the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you take a moment to reflect on your journey so far and thank those who helped you along the way.

Additionally, I ask that you consider your future. Whether you decide to enter the workforce or pursue additional educational opportunities, I encourage you to move forward with the same level of passion, commitment and dedication that has brought you to this point today. If you do, I am confident that you will achieve great things.

The Capital District EOC is a valuable community resource that has helped thousands of residents pursue new careers and obtain economic independence. We're tremendously proud of the Class of 2021 and look forward to watching you grow & thrive.

Again, congratulations on today's graduation and wish you much success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Madden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Patrick Madden  
Mayor, City of Troy



## MISSION

The Capital District Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is an educational enterprise that services eligible adult learners. The EOC delivers comprehensive, community based, academic and workforce development programs and provides support services, leading to enhanced employment opportunities, access to further education, personal growth and development.

**CAPITAL DISTRICT**

SUNY UCAWD



**Educational Opportunity Center**

A division of Hudson Valley Community College

(518) 273-1900 // [www.hvcc.edu/eoc](http://www.hvcc.edu/eoc)

431 River Street, Troy, NY 12180