

**CELEBRATING
THE CLASS OF**



WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2026

**EDWARD D. HANSEN
CONFERENCE CENTER**





WELCOME TO WSU EVERETT'S 2026 COMMENCEMENT

Commencement at Washington State University Everett is a moment of recognition and collective celebration.

Today, we gather to honor academic achievement and to confer Washington State University degrees—degrees earned through rigorous study, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to learning. This ceremony marks the completion of an important chapter and affirms the values that unite all WSU campuses: excellence, innovation, and public purpose.

Families, friends, faculty, and staff come together to share this occasion and to recognize its significance. While each graduate's path is distinct, commencement is a shared milestone—one that connects today's graduates to the proud tradition of Washington State University and to a global community of WSU alumni.

We are honored to celebrate this day with you.

Go Cougs!

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL*	Banner Procession Candidates for Degrees Washington State University Everett Faculty
PRESENTATION of the COLORS	Marysville Junior ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Jessie Lorenz
OPENING REMARKS	Sandra Haynes , <i>Executive Vice President for WSU Statewide Campuses</i> Betsy Cantwell , <i>President, Washington State University System</i>
STUDENTS ADDRESS	Rafia Shakil , <i>Vice President, Associated Students of Washington State University Everett</i>
KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Angela Jones , <i>Director, Washington State and U.S. Charters, Gates Foundation</i>
PRESENTATION of DEGREES	College of Arts and Sciences Carson College of Business Edward R. Murrow College of Communication College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture College of Nursing
CONFERRAL of DEGREES	Sandra Haynes , <i>Executive Vice President for WSU Statewide Campuses</i>
DIPLOMA MARCH	Doctoral Candidate, Bachelor's Candidates
TURNING of the TASSELS	Rafia Shakil , <i>Vice President, Associated Students of Washington State University Everett</i>
ALUMNI GREETING	Lisa Heard , <i>President-Elect, WSU Alumni Association</i>
CLOSING REMARKS	Sandra Haynes , <i>Executive Vice President for WSU Statewide Campuses</i>
RECESSIONAL*	Platform Party Washington State University Everett Faculty Graduates

**Please stand and remain at your seats for the processional and recessional.*

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

To the Class of 2026

Dear WSU Graduates,

Today marks both an accomplishment and a beginning.

Congratulations. You have completed your degree at a time when higher education, the workforce, and our communities are changing rapidly—and you did so while managing real responsibilities in your lives. Many of you balanced coursework with careers, families, military service, and community commitments. That persistence matters. It says something important about who you are and what you can do next.

You are graduating at a moment of profound transformation. The nature of work is changing. Technology is reshaping industries. Communities are redefining how learning happens across a lifetime. And through all that change, you made the decision to keep going—to finish what you started.

Many of you earned this degree while working full time, raising families, caring for others, serving in your communities, or rebuilding careers. You studied late at night, early in the morning, and in the margins of already full lives. Progress may not always have come easily or quickly—but you stayed with it.

Your degree signals more than mastery of a field. It shows that you are adaptable—the single most important capability in a world defined by continuous change. The careers you hold today may evolve. Entire industries will transform. New opportunities will emerge that do not yet exist.

What will endure is your ability to learn, to lead, and to contribute.

The future will belong to people willing to step forward, solve hard problems, and help their communities navigate uncertainty with clarity and purpose. That is now your role—not only as graduates, but as Cougs.

As you move into this next chapter, know that you carry with you a Cougar community that is proud of you and invested in your success. Cougar Nation stretches across professions, cities, and generations—and today you join it as graduates and peers.

The future is being built by people willing to take initiative. You are ready for that work.

Congratulations, Class of 2026. We are proud of you.



Betsy Cantwell
President





BOARD OF REGENTS

Brett Blankenship – Member

Marty Dickinson – Member

Sam Hunt – Member

Amina Hussein – Member (Student Regent)

Tracy Klein – Member (Faculty Regent)

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Jenette Ramos – Chair

Lisa Keohokalole Schauer – Immediate Past Chair

Howard Wright – Member

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Cory Baker – President, Baker Law Firm

Geraldine Carlson – WSU Foundation Board member

Enrique Cerna – Former Journalist and WSU Regent (Emeritus)

Patty DeGroot – Retired Chief Strategic Officer for Providence Regional Medical Center Everett

Crystal Donner – President/CEO Pertee, Inc.

Amy Drewel – Owner, Mosaic Insurance Alliance, LLC

Bob Drewell – Senior Advisor to the WSU President

Cory Duskin – Owner/President Arlington Pharmacy

Brian Evans – Principal/Wealth Manager, Bauer Evans, Inc. P.S. (Advisory Council Chair)

Cassie Franklin – Mayor, City of Everett

George Henny – President, Whidbey Telecom

Tom Hoban – CEO, Coast Group of Companies

Nona Larson – Retired PACCAR Technical Center

Lisa Lefeber – CEO of the Port of Everett

Monte Marti – Executive Director (Emeritus), Snohomish Conservation District Board

Gabriel Mast – Dean of Instruction Skagit Valley College

Pat McClain – Former Chair WSU Everett Advisory Council

Jeff Moore – Business Development Officer, Coastal Community Bank

John Nehring – Mayor, City of Marysville

Debi Nordstrom – President of Martin and Nordstrom Co.

John Olson – Former Executive Director, Everett Community College

Jessica Parsons – Senior Manager in Production Engineering, The Boeing Company

Judy Rogers – Community Volunteer

Ian Saltzman – Superintendent of Everett Public Schools

Ray Stephanson – President and CEO, Economic Alliance of Snohomish County

John Sternlicht – CEO, Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County

Barbara Tolbert – Mayor Emeritus, City of Arlington

Robert Williams – Regional Manager for Planning and Community Development at Rainier Valley Community Development

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(in order of appearance)



SANDRA HAYNES

Executive Vice President for Washington State University Statewide Campuses

Dr. Sandra Haynes serves as Executive Vice President for Washington State University Statewide Campuses, providing strategic leadership for WSU Everett, WSU Tri-Cities, and WSU Vancouver. In this role, she strengthens coordination and alignment across these campuses to advance student success and regional impact.

Haynes brings more than two decades of higher education leadership experience, with a strong record of building community partnerships, supporting student achievement, and guiding institutional transformation in a range of higher education settings. Known for her clarity, integrity, and people-centered approach, she fosters trust and empowers teams to create environments where innovation can thrive.

Previously, Haynes served as Chancellor for WSU Tri-Cities and Interim Chancellor for WSU Vancouver, where she led efforts to expand access, strengthen academic and student support programs, and align campus operations with WSU's strategic goals. Her leadership has contributed to enrollment growth, improved student outcomes, and deeper regional engagement across the campuses she oversees.

Haynes holds a Ph.D. in experimental neuropsychology with a re-specialization in counseling psychology and is a professor in the Department of Psychology at Washington State University.



BETSY CANTWELL

President, Washington State University System

Dr. Elizabeth Cantwell became Washington State University's 12th president on April 1, 2025, bringing extensive experience in research leadership. Before joining WSU, she served as president of Utah State University, a space and land-grant R1 institution, where she managed a \$1.3 billion annual operating budget and successfully led a redesign of the Academic Enterprise and increased annual research expenditures. Prior to that time, President Cantwell held senior leadership positions at the University of Arizona and Arizona State University, where she significantly expanded their research enterprises. Her distinguished career also includes extensive service in U.S. national security, with leadership roles at several national laboratories. She holds degrees from Wharton (MBA), UC Berkeley (Ph.D., mechanical engineering), and the University of Chicago (BA, human behavior). She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(in order of appearance)



RAFIA SHAKIL

B.A., Business Administration, Management Major

Rafia Shakil is an emerging leader recognized for her ability to turn ideas into purposeful action. This year, she served as vice president of the Associated Students of WSU Everett, partnering with campus leadership and administration to advance student advocacy, governance, and community impact.

A Boeing Scholar, she has collaborated with interdisciplinary teams to address real-world business challenges through market analysis, strategic thinking, and operational problem-solving. Her professional experience includes supporting executive leadership at Windspeed Technologies, where she developed strengths in project management, organization, and cross-functional collaboration.

Across academic, professional, and community settings, her work focuses on bridging strategy and execution—building effective systems, aligning teams around shared goals, and delivering meaningful outcomes. She is passionate about leadership development and looks forward to continuing her career in operations and strategy.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(in order of appearance)



ANGELA JONES

Director, Washington State and U.S. Charters

Angela Jones leads the Gates Foundation's efforts to create sustainable and positive impact for students, families, and communities in Washington state. With more than 25 years of passionate engagement, service, and leadership in Washington's public education systems, she applies her experience in leading systemic change and a strong belief in community sustainability and generational growth through access to education.

Before joining the foundation in 2021, Angela held roles as the CEO of Washington STEM and various leadership roles at Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, Spokane Public Schools, and the Wapato School District that included vice president of student affairs, vice president of university advancement, chief of staff, and director of employment and conciliation services.

Angela received her J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law as well as an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. She also holds a master's degree in communications from Eastern Washington University and a bachelor's degree in English/Language Arts with an initial teaching certificate from Washington State University.

Angela is a co-founder and managing partner of the Black Future Co-op Fund, Washington's only Black created and led philanthropic organization designed to ignite Black health, generational wealth, and well-being. She also serves on the board of trustees for Gonzaga University, the Edmonds Teachers of Color Foundation, and the Washington State University Student Affairs Advisory Committee.





GONFALON BEARERS

College of Arts and Sciences
James Byrnes

Carson College of Business
Cameron Lovinus

Edward R. Murrow College
of Communication
Scott Bowhall

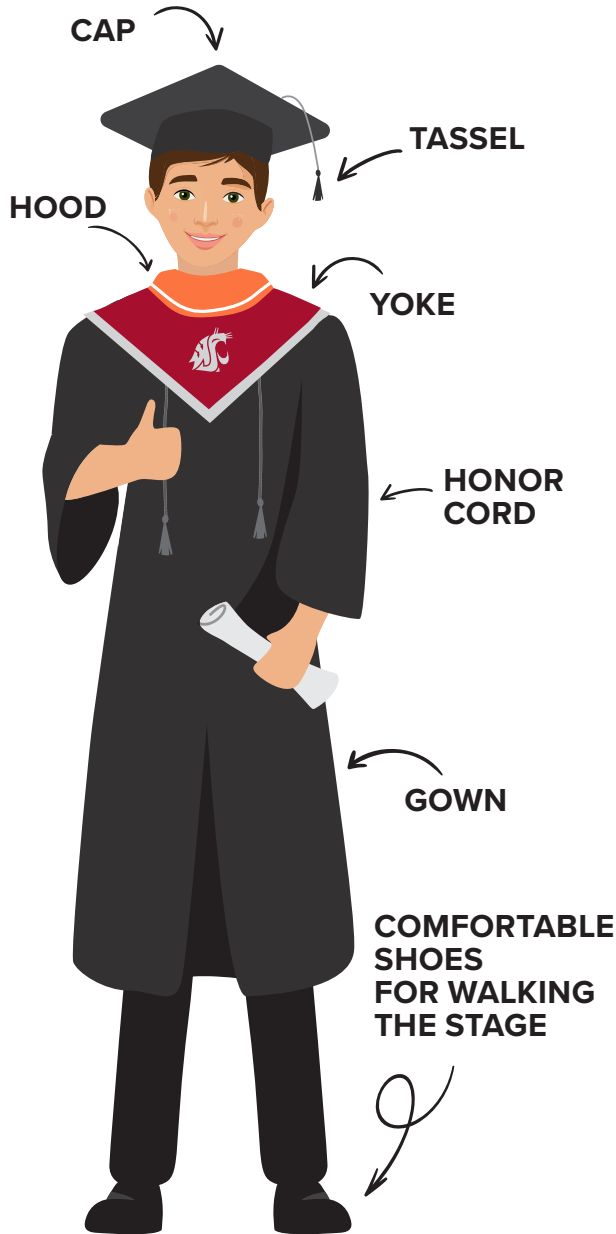
College of Education, Sport,
and Human Services
Stephanie Mahar

Voiland College of Engineering
and Architecture
Heather McCartney

College of Nursing
Yamerot Ashagre

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The academic regalia worn in the commencement ceremony features a rich history based on long-standing tradition and historic significance. Current academic dress is the result of an evolution of the robes worn by medieval students, who were usually clerics in the churches' schools and monasteries. Over the centuries, British and commonwealth universities have retained the earlier custom in which holders of doctorate degrees wear scarlet gowns and round bonnets. In the United States, a standard code of more subdued dress prevails, with academic attire composed of a cap, a gown and a hood.



HOOD COLORS

- Agriculture: Maize
- Engineering and Computer Science: Orange
- Arts, Letters and Humanities: White
- Nursing: Apricot
- Business: Drab
- Science: Golden yellow
- Education: Light blue

CAPS AND GOWNS

Gowns for bachelor's degrees are always black with no trim. Gowns for master's degrees are gray with crimson accents. Baccalaureate gowns have straight sleeves, while master's gowns have long, pointed sleeves with the forearm seen through a slit at the sleeve's elbow. Doctoral gowns are crimson with gray velvet accents and matching velvet tams. The staff volunteers wearing crimson robes are marshals, assisting students and faculty with the flow of the ceremony.

WSU graduates wear yokes over their gowns. The crimson and gray yokes have become WSU's Commencement signature.

The most common cap worn at graduation ceremonies in the United States is the mortar-board, named for its flat top, which has a black tassel fastened to the cap's middle point and worn on the right. After receiving a bachelor's degree, the graduate moves the tassel from right to left.

HOODS

Candidates for advanced degrees wear the academic hood, a traditional garment signifying high scholarly achievement. The colors on the section of hood situated around the neck represent the wearer's major academic discipline. The section that hangs across the back and between the shoulders is lined with the official color, or colors, of the college conferring the degree. WSU's colors are crimson and gray. Colors associated with areas of study applicable to WSU Vancouver are listed below.

HONOR CORDS

Candidates for baccalaureate degrees are eligible for academic honors based on their cumulative grade point average after 30 graded credits completed at WSU by the end of fall semester 2025. Students who earn a GPA of 3.50 or better wear a crimson and gray honor cord generously provided by the Associated Students of WSU Vancouver.



CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
LANGUAGE LITERACY, AND TECHNOLOGY**

Stephanie Elaine Mahar



CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREES

College of Agricultural, Human, And Natural Resource Sciences

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIC AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Dylan Svihus

College of Arts and Sciences

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DATA ANALYTICS

James Byrnes
Cum Laude

Jeffrey Calderon

Jasjeen Khosa

Giovanna Maielo Occhialini

Abdourahman Samura

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Haymanot Woldehanna
Cum Laude

Carson College of Business

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Kayleigh Betschart
Cum Laude

Cole Betz
Magna Cum Laude

Hazeline Foronda
Magna Cum Laude

Lee-Ann Hynes
Cum Laude

Edward Lin

Cameron James Lovinus
Summa Cum Laude

Alexis Luprypa

Carter McCalmon
Magna Cum Laude

Ty Moltz
Summa Cum Laude

Prasannta Priya

Rafia Shakil
Cum Laude

Faiza Yussuf

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HOSPITALITY BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Constanza Urrutia
Magna Cum Laude

Edward R. Murrow College of Communication

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Jordan Acey
Cum Laude

Kendyl Bourland

Scott Anthony Bowhall
Summa Cum Laude

Jasmine Contreras-Lewis

Samuel Cooley
Magna Cum Laude

Daniela Escobar Fuentes

Noah Hickman
Magna Cum Laude

Preston Isaac Lawrence
Cum Laude

CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Victoria Martinez Garcia
Lindsey McClellan
Magna Cum Laude

Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Abdul-Qadir Al-Azadi
Summa Cum Laude

Bailey Behn

Andrew Bogush
Summa Cum Laude

Raidyn Hendricks
Cum Laude

Timothy Marlett

Connor Nutz
Magna Cum Laude

Christopher O'Flaherty
Magna Cum Laude

Vadim Onishchuk
Cum Laude

Marcus Osborn
Magna Cum Laude

Joshua Ruben Pizana

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Lamar Eastland
Magna Cum Laude

Yuliya Nikolayevna Fedorchenko
Magna Cum Laude

Jontay Giles
Magna Cum Laude

Austin Harris

Obaidur Rehman Malik

Heather Marie McCartney
Summa Cum Laude

Kathryn Miller
Magna Cum Laude

Christian Moir
Magna Cum Laude

Izzy Morris

Kobe Phothivongsa

Jordan Richards

Scott Shaler

Estanislado Zavala Montalvo
Magna Cum Laude

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

Nariman Badiei

Nolan Brown
Magna Cum Laude

Donovan Burger
Magna Cum Laude

Kwon-Yu Matt Chen
Magna Cum Laude

Chuong Dang

Abylay Dospayev

JD Faber
Cum Laude

Dylan Gyori
Summa Cum Laude

Jason Iwuoha

Toufic Majdalani

Ian McLerran

Nhan Nguyen

Thanh Tran

College of Nursing

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Yamerot Ashagre
Summa Cum Laude



2025/26 VCEA STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

Outstanding Achievement, Senior, Mechanical Engineering

Heather McCartney

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EVERETT

Jessie Southam
President

Rafia Shakil
Vice President

Kendyl Bourland
Director of Legislative Affairs

Hudson Bedward
Director of Events

Prasannta Priya
Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Access

Kevin Sandstrom
Director of Finance

Katelyn Thompsen
Director of Public Relations



ALMA MATER

Washington, my Washington,
the Crimson and the Gray!

'Tis the song of memory
that we sing today.

When the sad hours come to you
and sorrows 'round you play,

Just sing the songs of Washington,
the Crimson and the Gray!

Just sing the songs of Washington,
the Crimson and the Gray!



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY FIGHT SONG

Fight, fight, fight for Washington State!

Win the victory!

Win the day for Crimson and Gray!

Best in the West,

We know you'll all do your best,

So on, on, on, on!

Fight to the end!

Honor and Glory you must win!

So fight, fight, fight for

Washington State and victory!

*****W***A***S***H***I***N***G***T***O***N*****

S*T***A***T***E***C***O***U***G***S*****

GO COUGS!

**clap*



WELCOME, NEW ALUMNI!
CONGRATULATIONS



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EVERETT

Thank you to **Judy Rogers, Geri and Chris Carlson**
for donating flowers to our graduates—a token of support
and recognition of all their hard work.