FRIDAY THE TENTH DAY OF MAY TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR CREDIT UNION 1 ARENA 525 SOUTH RACINE AVENUE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

CEREMONY

Graduate and Undergraduate Degrees

College of Arts and Sciences
College of Business and Technology
Goodwin College of Education
Nontraditional Degree Programs

WELCOME

Welcome to Northeastern Illinois University's May 2024 Commencement Ceremony. Since our founding in 1867, Northeastern Illinois University has met the demands for quality education in Illinois. Home to generations of dedicated and resilient students, Northeastern Illinois University provides a high-quality, high-value education to a culturally diverse student body consisting of students who enter college directly from high school as well as returning adult learners and working students. The University currently enrolls more than 5,000 students each Fall and Spring semester and employs more than 1,000 faculty and staff. We also serve as a cultural and economic resource for our neighboring communities and the State of Illinois.

To our graduates: We congratulate you. We honor your accomplishments. As you join the ranks of more than 88,000 Northeastern alumni living in the United States and around the globe, we hope your life will be enriched by a continuing commitment to learning. We also encourage you to stay involved with the Northeastern community. I wish each of you happiness and success in the years ahead.

Katrina E. Bell-Jordan, Ph.D.

Interim President

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Northeastern Illinois University is a fully accredited public university. Founded in 1867, the University has a rich tradition of educational innovation and prides itself on its roots, which trace back to the first teacher education institution in Chicago.

Today, Northeastern offers an array of academic disciplines with more than 40 undergraduate degree and certificate programs and more than 50 graduate degree, certificate, licensure and endorsement programs, allowing the University to fully embrace the communities in which it resides. The Main Campus is located on 67 acres in an attractive residential area on the Northwest Side of Chicago with additional locations in the metropolitan area including the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (located in Bronzeville), El Centro (located in Avondale) and the University Center of Lake County (located in Grayslake, Illinois).

Diversity is an important factor in the character of Northeastern and in the social fabric of its student body. Our learning community is richly diverse in ethnicity, culture, age and language, with a strong commitment to learning in the global community. Northeastern received its federal designation as Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) in 1997. It is the longest-standing four-year public HSI in the Midwest.

MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Northeastern Illinois University, as a public comprehensive university with locations throughout Chicago, provides an exceptional environment for learning, teaching, and scholarship. We prepare a diverse community of students for leadership and service in our region and in a dynamic multicultural world.

VISION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Northeastern Illinois University will be a leader among metropolitan universities, known for its dedication to its urban mission, for the quality of its programs, for the success of its graduates and for the diversity of its learning environment.

STATEMENT OF VALUES

Northeastern Illinois University is committed to a set of shared values that, taken collectively, guide our actions and interactions as we work together to prepare graduates for the responsible exercise of civic participation. We, the NEIU community, believe it is critical for our democracy to create a space in which the commitment to these values results in a thriving educational community that transforms the lives of all. As we take stock of the present and look to the future, these values serve as the touchstone for planning how we will best achieve the educational mission entrusted to us.

INTEGRITY

NEIU is accountable to those we serve and to those from whom we receive support. We are committed to honesty, respect, and transparency in our words and in our actions. In that regard, we work to be good stewards of the resources we are entrusted to use. This includes human, physical, fiscal, and environmental resources.

EXCELLENCE

In our pursuit of and commitment to excellence, we value the highest quality of learning and teaching, scholarship, and service. We value opportunities and experiences that support personal and professional development for all members of our community. In all that we say and do, we are committed to the process and products of excellence.

ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

NEIU values access to opportunity; we value a welcoming environment that provides appropriate support as well as encourages mutual responsibility for and commitment to learning.

DIVERSITY

NEIU values the inclusion of a broad spectrum of students, staff, and faculty in the life of the University. We celebrate and foster global perspectives. We encourage the open and respectful expression of ideas and differences in thoughts, experiences, and opinions.

STATEMENT OF VALUES

COMMUNITY

NEIU strives to provide an environment that is supportive, nurturing, and participatory. Such an environment is characterized by civility, fostering humanity and engagement, and creates a sense of community through inclusion, mutual respect, and empowerment. NEIU values our metropolitan setting as a laboratory for learning, and we foster partnerships for learning, research, and service throughout this dynamic region to promote the public good.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH LEARNING

NEIU is dedicated to creating a culture that provides life-long learning opportunities for all members of the University community. We are especially committed to transforming students' lives by engaging them in an educational experience that empowers them to graduate with the skills and knowledge to effectively participate and lead in personal, professional and civic realms.

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY HISTORICAL TIME LINE

Cook County Normal School (1867-1896)

Daniel Sanborn Wentworth, Principal, 1867-1882

William C. Dodge, Acting Principal, 1882-1883

Francis Wayland Parker, Principal, 1883-1899

Chicago Normal School (1896-1938)

William Griffin, Acting Principal, 1899

Arnold Tompkins, Principal, 1900-1905

Ella Flagg Young, Principal, 1905-1909

William Bishop Owen, Principal/President, 1909-1928

Hazel Stillman, Acting President, 1928

Butler Laughlin, President, 1928-1936

Chicago Teachers College (1938-1965)

Verne O. Graham, President, 1936-1938

John A. Bartky, President, 1938-1942

John I. Swearingen, Acting President, 1942-1948

Raymond Mack Cook, Dean, 1948-1960; Dean of Chicago Teachers College South 1961-1965

Chicago Teachers College North (1960-1965)

Roy Newell Jervis, Dean, 1960-1962

Northeastern Illinois State College (1966-1971)

Jerome M. Sachs, Dean, 1962-1971

Northeastern Illinois University (1971-present)

Jerome M. Sachs, President, 1971-1973

James Mullen, President, 1973-1976

William Lienemann, Acting President, 1976

Ronald Williams, President, 1976-1985

Gordon H. Lamb, President, 1986-1995

Salme Harju Steinberg, President, 1995-2007

Sharon K. Hahs, President, 2007-2016

Richard J. Helldobler, Interim President, 2016-2018

Wamucii Njogu, Acting President, 2018

Gloria J. Gibson, President, 2018-2023

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Academic regalia dates back to the medieval universities of the 12th century. Scholars were members of religious orders, then guilds. The University was a guild of Masters of Arts, where the Bachelor was an apprentice to the Master. The first known statute governing academic dress appeared in 1321 at the University of Coimbra (Portugal). The practice in the United States goes back to 1754, when King George II transplanted many regulations from Oxford and Cambridge to the newly chartered King's College (now Columbia University in New York).

The principal features of academic regalia are the gown, cap and hood. The bachelor's gown is distinguished by long pointed sleeves and is worn closed, while the master's gown, which may be worn open or closed, has long closed sleeves from which the forearm emerges through a slit near the elbow. The doctor's gown is faced with broad velvet panels and has full round sleeves that bear three velvet bars. The square cap originated at Oxford in the 16th century and is the same for all degrees, with the tassel in black or in the color of the field of study; doctors are privileged to wear gold tassels.

Originally, the hood was a tippet, a shoulder covering worn by medieval friars during the 14th century and used to cover the head. When caps were adopted in the 15th century, hoods became ornamental and were draped over the shoulder and down the back. Today, the length of the hood and the width of the velvet border that edges it varies with the degree, while the color of the border represents the field of learning:

Blue (light)	Education
Blue (dark)	
Brown	
Copper	
Drab	
Gray (silver)	Oratory
Green (sage)	Physical Education
Pink	Music
Purple	Law
Scarlet	Theology
White	Arts, Letters, Humanities
Yellow (gold)	Science

MEDALLION AND SEAL

The medallion and seal are symbols of the position of President of the University. The University seal is the symbol of the University. The decorative features of the cast medallion incorporate the University seal. Combining both traditional and contemporary elements, the seal of Northeastern Illinois University represents the history and mission of the institution. The book and the flame are classic symbols of knowledge and enlightenment. The skyline and the globe symbolize the urban setting and the involvement of the University in a global society.

ACADEMIC HONORS MEDALLIONS

Baccalaureate candidates may wear medallions as part of their regalia. One medallion is for recognition of completing the University Honors Program, an interdisciplinary, researchbased experience for students in all areas of study. This medallion features the seal of the UHP - an Ionic capital symbolizes knowledge, and serves as a base for the flame, which represents the igniting of students' imaginations. Honors scholars complete a rigorous research or creative project while maintaining a superior grade point average and are also recognized by a gold tassel worn at commencement, an honors designation on their diploma, and an honors notation on their academic record and transcript. Candidates completing the University Honors Program are denoted by "+HS" after their name. Another medallion is awarded in recognition of distinction in the form of superior academic performance, or a high grade point average, and is noted as such on candidates' diplomas. Candidates graduating cum laude (3.5-3.74) wear a bronze medallion, those graduating magna cum laude (3.75-3.89) wear a silver medallion, and the highest-achieving students graduate summa cum laude (3.90-4.0) and wear a gold medallion. Honors scholars may wear both medallions. These medallions acknowledge the students' and the University's commitment to academic excellence.

CEREMONIAL ORB

The orb is a symbol of the authority and stewardship vested in the President by the Board of Trustees. Northeastern Illinois University's orb is a modern version of the medieval orbs, which were symbolic renditions of real maps used by scholars of that time to understand the world. In the Middle Ages, the orb and scepter (mace) were carried at the time of coronation to symbolize the king's and/or queen's authority and stewardship. The orb symbolized the ruler's responsibility to care for the world he or she governed. It, too, symbolizes that the Board of Trustees entrusts the President with the care of the members of the University community as well as with the responsible stewardship of the University's resources. It is to be carried before the President during any official processional or recessional.

At the December 2013 Commencement Ceremony, the Northeastern Illinois University Foundation presented the University President with a newly commissioned orb. The orb was designed by Professor Jane Weintraub of Northeastern's Art Department, and then fabricated by Chicago-based R. S. Owens, a company especially known for its production of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Oscar®. The 8-inch metallic orb has a silver finish with the University seal affixed to the front. The names of those who have served as presidents, principals and campus deans of the institution are etched onto the orb's surface. Additional names of future leaders will be added upon their inauguration. Significant dates in the University's history are also included on the orb.

The orb rests on a stone base formed in the shape of Illinois. The inscribed text reflects the various titles the President has held prior to assuming the presidency of Northeastern Illinois University and is representative of the experience and knowledge brought to the position. The base will change with each newly inaugurated president.

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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College of Business and Technology

Akkady Tchaba, Instructor

Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education

Amanda Montes, Associate Professor

Nontraditional Degree Programs

Erica Krueger, Instructor

CEREMONY

FACULTY PROCESSIONAL

"Pomp and Circumstance," from Opus 39 by Sir Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934)

CALL TO ORDER

Adam Goldstein, Vice Chair, Faculty Senate

NATIONAL ANTHEM

"The Star Spangled Banner" Julie Soroko, Vocalist

INTRODUCTION OF PLATFORM PARTY

R. Shayne Cofer

GREETINGS FROM THE NEIU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

J. Todd Phillips

STUDENT REMARKS

Ana P. Torres

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO THE GRADUATES

Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Alejandra Campoverdi

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

R. Shayne Cofer

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

CEREMONY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Timothy Libretti, Dean

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

Michael Bedell, Dean

DANIEL L. GOODWIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Thomas Philion, Dean

NONTRADITIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

Kimya Barden, Director

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS

Katrina E. Bell-Jordan

CLOSING

Adam Goldstein

RECESSIONAL

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Alejandra Campoverdi

Alejandra Campoverdi is a nationally-recognized women's health advocate, bestselling author, founder, producer, and former White House aide to President Obama.

Alejandra's award-winning book, "FIRST GEN," examines the emotional toll of social mobility on those she refers to as "First and Onlys." A national bestseller, "FIRST GEN" is the winner of the California Independent Booksellers Alliance (CALIBA) Golden Poppy Martin Cruz Smith Award, and was longlisted for the Outstanding Works of Literature Award for the First Year Experience. "FIRST GEN" is also the 2024 Opportunity Matters Book Club selection for the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), a national book club for first-generation and low-income students at colleges and universities across the country.

Previously, Alejandra served in the Obama White House as the first White House Deputy Director of Hispanic Media. She produced and appeared in the groundbreaking PBS documentary "Inheritance," and founded the LATINOS & BRCA awareness initiative in partnership with Penn Medicine's Basser Center for BRCA. Alejandra holds a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and graduated cum laude from USC. She currently sits on the boards of the California Community Foundation and Harvard's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy, and is a Senior Fellow at the USC Center on Communication Leadership and Policy.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION GRADUATE DEGREES IN ARTS AND SCIENCES COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Emmanuella Abena Amoafi Agyei

M.S.W. SOCIAL WORK B.S.W. Northeastern Illinois University 2022

Mudassir Ahmed

M.S. CHEMISTRY B.S.P.S. Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad 2015

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M.S.W. SOCIAL WORK D.D.S. Tishreen University 2003

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Anushka R Shukla

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Irena Maria Sromek

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B.A. DePaul University 1999

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* CUM LAUDE +

** MAGNA CUM LAUDE + SUMMA CUM LAUDE

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This program is not an official University document. Due to rigid time requirements, it must be printed before the final lists of degree candidates can be determined. The exclusion of the name of a student is not to be taken as an indication of his or her official status as a non-graduate, nor is the inclusion of the name of a student to be taken as certification of his or her official status as a graduate.

Guests are respectfully requested to stand during the national anthem, then remain seated during the entire ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony please remain seated until the platform party, faculty and graduates have left the main floor. At the conclusion of the ceremony, guests can meet their graduates outside of the arena.

Thank you.