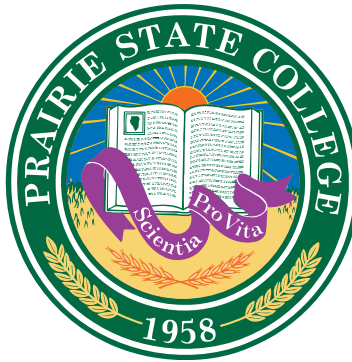




Sixty-Second Annual
Commencement

May 15, 2021
2 p.m.



Prairie State College Board of Trustees

Christopher J. Baikauskas
Monica M. Gordon
Jay S. Readey
John N. Stanfa
Dr. Ronald J. White
Camiella D. Williams

Christian M. Ponce • Student Trustee • 2020-2021

Officers of the College

Dr. Thomas D. Saban • Interim President/Vice President of Finance and Administration
Elighie Wilson III • Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty
Dr. Michael D. Anthony • Vice President, Student Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness

Dr. Tiffany D. Brewer • Dean, Equity and Inclusion
Carolyn H. Ciesla • Dean, Learning Resources and Assessment, Library
Annette R. Dolph • Interim Dean, Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Academic Standards
Dr. Megan E. Hughes • Interim Dean, Allied Health and Emergency Services
Dr. Janice Kaushal • Dean, Career and Technical Education
Kim Marissa Kunce • Dean, Adult Education
Jaime M. Miller • Dean, Enrollment Management
Felix C. Simpkins • Dean, Student Development
Dr. Kisha M. Wells • Interim Dean, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Illinois Community College Board

Dr. Lazaro Lopez • Chair
Dr. Brian Durham • Executive Director

Illinois Board of Higher Education

John Atkinson • Chair
Ginger Ostro • Executive Director

Program of Events

Dr. Thomas D. Saban, Presiding
Associate Professor Dr. Natalie J. McGathey, Grand Marshal
Adjunct Professor Cherise Joy Stone, Honorary Grand Marshal

Invocation	Mr. Christian M. Ponce <i>Student Trustee 2020-2021</i>
Welcome	Dr. Thomas D. Saban
Greetings from the Board of Trustees	Dr. Ronald J. White
Recognition of Faculty	Dr. Natalie J. McGathey <i>ICCTA Faculty of the Year Nominee</i>
Class of 2021 Speaker	Mr. Ponce
Introduction of Commencement Speaker	Dr. Saban <i>Mr. Emmanuel Lopez</i>
Presentation of Honorary Degree	Dr. Saban <i>Mr. Lopez</i>
Presentation of Phi Theta Kappa Honors.	Dr. Michael D. Anthony <i>Presented to:</i> <i>Ms. Oyeyemi O. Efunkoya</i> <i>Mr. Ricardo Martinez</i>
Presentation of President's Leadership Award.	Dr. Saban <i>Presented to:</i> <i>Mr. Donald L. Benkendorf</i> <i>Ms. Lucia I. Garcia-Gallegos</i> <i>Ms. Kelly L. O'Brien</i> <i>Ms. Parthavi Patel</i> <i>Mr. Christian M. Ponce</i>
Presentation of Honor Graduate Candidates	Dr. Anthony
Presentation of Degree and Certificate Candidates	Mr. Wilson
Conferring of Degrees and Certificates	Dr. Saban
Invitation to Alumni	Ms. Deborah S. Havighorst <i>Director of Institutional</i> <i>Advancement and the</i> <i>Prairie State College Foundation</i>

About Today's Speaker

Emmanuel López

Mr. Emmanuel López is a first-generation Latinx student from Harvey, Illinois. He began his journey at Prairie State College in 2013. During his time at Prairie State College, Mr. López became the vice president of the All Latin Alliance, president of the Sustainability Club, and eventually the president of the Student Government Association. Mr. Lopez graduated from Prairie State College with an Associate of Arts in Biological Sciences. He later obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with minors in Spanish and Psychology from Indiana University Northwest. Mr. López continued his education at Northeastern Illinois University, where he earned a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership in 2020.

Mr. López has received numerous honors and awards, including the Dr. Juan Andrade Scholarship for Young Hispanic Leaders; Prairie State College Student Leader of the Year; President's Award for Scholarship and Leadership; Indiana University Northwest Dean's List; Northeastern Illinois University Dean's List; and the Northwestern University Student Affairs Award for Innovation.

Mr. López was a graduate assistant in the Multicultural Student Affairs department at Northwestern University before transitioning into his current role as a bilingual recruiting specialist at Governors State University.

Student Recognition

President's Leadership Award

This award is presented to graduating students who, during their years at Prairie State College, have combined excellent academic achievement with outstanding co-curricular contributions to the college. The president seeks to recognize those students who have made significant contributions toward improving and developing the intellectual, social, cultural, and/or athletic fabric of the Prairie State College community.

Donald L. Benkendorf

President's Leadership Award Recipient

Mr. Donald L. Benkendorf is a member of the National Technical Honors Society and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He also serves as a volunteer math tutor. Mr. Benkendorf was chosen as a NASA Community College Aerospace Scholar, where he participated in an online learning experience with NASA scientists and engineers. During his intensive nine-day virtual experience, working long hours with other participants, his team won first place in the Mission Challenge. As a student, Mr. Benkendorf has made a difference at the college with his academic achievement, inspirational co-curricular activities, and dedicated volunteer work. His willingness to help others and teamwork skills make him an exemplary student leader.

Lucia J. Garcia-Gallegos

President's Leadership Award Recipient

Ms. Lucia Garcia-Gallegos is the president of the Student Government Association. She was a member of the Political Science Club, All Latin Alliance, the student newspaper, and an executive member of the Veterans Club. Ms. Garcia-Gallegos also has been involved in numerous volunteer projects at Prairie State College. As a student who cares, she informs other students about the resources and opportunities available at the College. Ms. Garcia-Gallegos is a visionary who listens, motivates, and works hard, making her an excellent role model and leader.

Kelly L. O'Brien

President's Leadership Award Recipient

Ms. Kelly O'Brien served as both the vice president and president of the Prairie State College's Dental Hygiene Program, Class of 2021. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Some of her volunteer work includes distributing dental products at the College's annual Halloween event and organizing fundraisers to provide financial help to dental hygiene students for the Northeast Board Review. Ms. O'Brien also helped students during their academic courses by tutoring over the phone and forming student groups. At the start of the pandemic, she not only donated her own personal protective equipment (PPE), Ms. O'Brien donated \$500 worth of PPE to Silver Cross Hospital.

Parthavi Patel

President's Leadership Award Recipient

Ms. Parthavi Patel participated in the Early College Initiative program at Prairie State College. She is a recipient of a Board of Trustees Scholarship and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Her volunteer work includes the Foundation Gala, Economic Forecast Breakfast, and Annual Jazz Fest. She also volunteered to help with on-campus registration services when the campus went virtual and participated in a training video that shows students how to use the College's Student Planning software for scheduling and registration.

Christian M. Ponce

President's Leadership Award Recipient

Mr. Christian Ponce served as the 2020-2021 Student Trustee attending monthly Board of Trustees' meetings where he served as the voice of the student body and a member of the Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Committee. He took pride in these positions, making informed decisions when voting, and centering the students' needs when deciding how to vote. Mr. Ponce was also a member of the All Latin Alliance and the Sustainability Club. He volunteered to hand out backpacks at Involvement Fest, filled with school supplies for students at the beginning of the 2020 fall semester. Mr. Ponce assisted the Foundation at its annual Gala, where money is raised for student scholarships. His dedication to his peers makes him a phenomenal student leader.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society All-Illinois Academic Team Recognition

The All-Illinois Academic Team recognizes high achieving two-year college students from the state of Illinois who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor, combined with leadership and service that extends their education beyond the classroom to benefit society. Students must have maintained a 3.50 or higher grade point average to be considered for this honor.

Oyeyemi Efunkoya

Phi Theta Kappa Honors

Ms. Oyeyemi O. Efunkoya is a member of the Nu Sigma Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was named to the 2021 All-Illinois Academic Team and Prairie State College Dean's List. Ms. Efunkoya is a member of the Stem Club and has served as a peer tutor for Math 095, 151, and 165. She was a work-study in the financial aid office. Her volunteer activities include working in the Information Technology department at her church and feeding the homeless.

Ricardo Martinez

Phi Theta Kappa Honors

Mr. Ricardo Martinez is a member of the Nu Sigma Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was named to the 2021 All-Illinois Academic Team and Prairie State College Dean's List. Mr. Martinez is a NASA Community College Aerospace Scholar. He has served as the Treasurer of the Student Government Association, Vice President of the Sustainability Club, and STEM Club Secretary. Mr. Martinez is a 2021 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholar. This prestigious award is given to only 72 scholars from across the nation.

Illinois Community College Trustees Association Award Nominations

Cherise Joy Stone

Adjunct Professor, English

The Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award recognizes the high achievement of Illinois' part-time community college instructors.

Charise Stone is currently in her tenth year at Prairie State College, and the impression she has made on the college is extraordinary. She has played a significant role in developing English composition courses for the newly formed African and African-American Studies Program. Students in her classes see themselves as academics. They are encouraged to share their academic voices through various forms of writing while simultaneously studying other forms of communication such as documentaries, blogs, and scholarly journals. Professor Stone is committed to becoming the best educator possible and to reaching as many students as possible. She is continuing her education by working towards an American Sign Language Certification as well as taking Spanish classes so that she can better address the needs of Prairie State College's students. As a graduate of Prairie State College, Professor Stone was determined to give back to the College that gave to her. In giving back to the College, not only has she made an impression with the student body, but with the faculty as well. Professor Stone attends professional development activities at the College and serves in leadership roles. She has co-led professional development activities for the English department on African-American English, and she has presented at CCCC/NCTE conferences. Professor Stone received both her Bachelor of Arts in English and Master of Business Administration from Governors State University.

Dr. Natalie J. McGathey

Associate Professor, Mathematics

The Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member Award recognizes the high achievement of Illinois' full-time community college instructors.

Dr. Natalie J. McGathey joined the Prairie State College faculty in 2003. She is a highly respected, committed, collaborative, and involved faculty member who inspires others through her leadership on various student-focused initiatives. In the community, Professor McGathey has received recognition for developing an after-school mathletes program for students at Western Avenue Elementary school. She is professionally active in her field, serving as the treasurer of the Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges (IMACC) and serving as a consultant on the "Thinking with Algebra" National Science Foundation Grant. Professor McGathey's teaching is grounded in research and her knowledge of current best practices. Her recent work with the "Thinking with Algebra" grant will create curriculum units for developmental courses. She developed the math peer tutoring program, which benefits the students receiving the tutoring and the tutors themselves. She also founded the STEM Club, which has become the primary way students in science and math on campus can connect with a wide variety of discipline-specific resources and opportunities.

Additionally, Professor McGathey was awarded an Illinois Community College Board "Bridging the Gap" grant to share a bridge program with local high schools. This year, Professor McGathey was instrumental in supporting both colleagues and students through the transition to virtual learning. She created an online repository for math faculty to share tools and strategies for online teaching. Professor McGathey received her Bachelor of Science from Lewis University, her Master of Science from the University of Illinois-Chicago, and her Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Illinois Chicago.

Retiring Faculty

Lee Anne Burrough
Professor, Physical Science/Earth Science and Geology
16 years of service

Jacqueline S. Dennis
Professor, Information Technology
22 years of service

Introduction of Candidates

Annette R. Dolph
Dr. Megan E. Hughes
Dr. Janice Kaushal
Dr. Kisha M. Wells

2021 Dr. Leslie Tischauser Social Science Academic Achievement Award

The Dr. Leslie Tischauser Social Science Academic Achievement Award annually recognizes one outstanding second year student who has excelled in a course of study in one or more of the Social Sciences disciplines. The student must have completed at least 15 credit hours of Social Science courses, and a Cumulative Social Sciences GPA of 3.0. The 2021 Social Science student Academic Achievement Award was presented to Tammie Morrow.

2021 Ed Schwarz Outstanding Communication Student Award

The Ed Schwarz Outstanding Communication Student Award recognizes declared communication-track students with a GPA above 3.5 who have taken two or more Prairie State College Communication courses and have given back to the campus community through communication-related activities. The 2021 Ed Schwarz Outstanding Communication Student Award was presented to Andrew Malone.

2021 African & African American Studies Book Award

The African & African American Studies Book Award recognizes a student who was nominated by a faculty member for having demonstrated exceptional promise as a scholar. The student must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher in African & African American Studies and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher overall. The 2021 African and African American Studies Book Award was presented to Nicollette A. Allen.

Professional Honor Societies

Prairie State College has six professional honor societies. Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for community college students. The society focuses on leadership, fellowship, scholarship, and service. Members of Phi Theta Kappa wear a gold stole featuring the honor society's key and an honors cord in blue and gold with the academic regalia. Alpha Beta Gamma is the national honor society for students in business-related disciplines. Graduates belonging to this honor society wear a sapphire blue stole with gold letters. Sigma Phi Alpha is the national honor society for students in dental hygiene. Graduates belonging to this honor society wear a white stole with purple piping. The National Technical Honor Society honors the achievements of top career and technical education students. Graduates belonging to this honor society wear a silver stole. Psi Beta Society is the national honor society for students in psychology, and graduates wear a gold stole with royal blue embroidery. Members of the N-OADN Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society wear an apricot honor cord. The white honor cord is worn by graduates who have successfully completed nine or more credit hours of honors level courses at Prairie State College.

Honors Recognition for Associate Degree Candidates

Prairie State College recognizes three categories of honor graduates: cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. Students graduating with honors wear colored ribbons that hold a medallion bearing the official college seal. The honor of cum laude or "with honors" is awarded to graduates who achieve a grade point average of 3.30 to 3.64 on a four-point scale. Cum laude graduates are recognized with a white ribbon. The honor of magna cum laude or "with high honors" is awarded to graduates with a grade point average of 3.65 to 3.84 on a four-point scale. These graduates are distinguished by a silver ribbon. The designation of summa cum laude or "with highest honors" is awarded to graduates who achieve a grade point average of 3.85 to a perfect 4.0. A gold ribbon signifies summa cum laude graduates.

Honors Recognition for Military and Veteran Graduates

Any veteran or currently serving student with a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher wear a red, white, and blue cord to show Prairie State College's gratitude and respect for the men and women who have made an unwavering commitment to both their nation and their academic studies. All graduating military and veteran students also wear a blue stole with white and red embroidery in recognition of their service.

Fall 2020 Graduates

Associate in Arts

Shanae N. Adams*
Keri Catrece Allen
Dylan Anderson
Kayla Ann Arnold*
Ana Barraza
Anna K. Barrera
Valerie Boone
Carolyn Brown
Deidre Burd
Howard K. Burrage III
Johnathan Perry Caldwell
Daniel Elias Califax
Daniella Carbajal
Deonna Maurisha Crosby
Tamaa Davis=El*
Kimberlee Dawson**
Alondra Esparza*
Ashley Evans
Toni N. Fossett-Turner
Brittany Galbreth
Dakota N. Garcia
Dominic Louis Garcia*
Alaine Griffin*
Genesis M. Harwell***
Symone Chana Hensley
Jasper-Duruzor Chinenyenwa Wendy**
Tierra S. Johnican
Jailyn Lumpkin
Megan Martinez**
Farid U. Mohammed
Rebecca Paige Murphy*
Lisa Patterson***
Samantha J. Patti*
Maylene Aliece Payne*
Andrey Pena Espinosa
Mauricio Perez*
Victoria Pilotto
Blake Dupree Reasoner
Andrew Archie Reasor***
Seneca Rodriguez Scanlan
Lauren M. Seely
Matthew Dennis Selsor**
Jessica Naomi Settles
Kristin Shaw
Deborah Cole*
Heather Smith**

Yakhori Smith*
Candace Smith
Randi Symone Smith
Renay N. Tucker
Tavion Velazquez**
Dominique Desiree' Wilcoxson
Charonese Eldora Wilder
Krystle Danielle Renee Williams

Associate in General Studies

Ayzleai Amkuozei
Yourrial Z. Arrington
Marjorie Berry
Loretta Ann England
Deianeira Ford
Andrew Douglass Frierson
Nicole T. Hill
Jacquetta L. Lawrence
Brandon A. Graham
Leif Ericksson Ramirez de la Torre**
Austin M. Raske
Johnny Reliford Jr.***
Wilbur Ivea Robertson
Michael A. Stepp, II
Dorothy Washington-Brown
Lawrence Weathersby, Sr.
Joyce Serrita Williams**
Barbie D. Winget**
LaTarra Denise Winston

Associate in Science

Alan E. Duncan*

Associate in Applied Science

Michael J. Andrews**
Howard Fisher
Francisco J. Gonzalez
Sanae Lockett
Karen Malahov***
Noemi Perez
Omar Sanchez Arellano*
Lakisha Thomas
Justin Tichgelaar*
Esmeralda Aguilar

Certificates

Bill J. Barefield**
Amyah Marie Coleman
Michael J Eubanks Sr***
Lauren R. Helton
Jose Lawrence
Johnathon Johnathon M. Lewis
Jonathan Mucha**
Armand Napoleon III
Luke Peebles
Karina Pineda
Jorri Iris Pitts*
Genesis Zsakiya Imani Tate
Lakisha D. Thomas

*cum laude

**magna cum laude

***summa cum laude

Spring 2021 Graduation Candidates

Associate in Arts

Jaquelyn Acosta
Takyla Adams-Collins
Bethany Jaye Adney*
Precious Adugba
Nicollette Alicia Allen*
LaKeshia N. Andrews
Nancy Angulo
Brenda Nayelie Ayala
Vanessa Ayala
Lauren C. Banks*
Jessica Bennett*
Dion Douglas Bertez Bobo Jr.
Phillip Alexander Thomas Brown*
Briana Louise Burrage-Johnson
Valeria Calzada Barron
Jada M. Campbell
Jana Dominique Dorothy Clay
Howard Tim Davis
Leneka Omartra Davis
Michael David Denton II*
Benjamin Durrant
Andrès Estrada
Austin D. Farmer
Logan B. Fingerle***
Jalon R. Flowers
Nyree Ford**
Angelica Garcia
Ta'jah Marie Gill
Sydney Nicole Grant
Moiya Griffin
Stephanie Gutierrez
Nicole Michele Harrington*
Danelle Kathleen Durante
Samantha R. Hill
Stacey Marie Hinko*
Michele A. Hogan
Tammie Shanne'lle Ingram*
Jaelynn Jenkins
Kristina Johnson
Jerrionna Dimitria Jones**
Joshua Lenell Kee*
Kim Y. Kellogg
Ebony King
Jordan K. Koyon
Kaeleigh B. Kral
Katherine Evelyn Lara

Songtoan Le***
Alisa Levy
Dylan Jessie Lopez
Allison Nicole Magruder
Aneena Mathew
Mariah P. McCaleb
Tierra NeeCoe McMillan
Rebekah Lynn Miller
Aina B. Modupe*
Angela D Pearson-Morgan
Keita Levana Morris
Catrina Mosley*
Jessica LeAnne Newby
Laquania Odom-Davis
Olufunke Morounmubo Onalaja
Ethen T Otstott
Brooke L. Pair
Parthavi Patel**
Robert P. Pienkowski*
Candice S. Pulliam
Dekyia Latrice Rebb
Janaye Reedy***
Isabella Robles
Joanna Rodriguez**
Sofia Rodriguez
Kevin Dennis Rogge II*
Terrance Rucker***
Mitchell Schurman***
Monica D. Smith
Payton Marcellus Smith
Briana A. Thompson
Paul David Tucker***
Gillian Nannette Vinson*
Alexia Wade*
Jermaine Lamont Walker Jr.
Alicia Marie Webb*
Emily Nicole Whitburn*
Charity Martiese Wiley***
D'Avian Andrell Williams
Kayla D. Williams
Barbie Winget**
Kayla Winters*
Jephthah Winters Jr.
Ananda Nicole Zinn*
Sabrina L. Zomparelli*
Sara Natalia Romero de Ramirez**
Paris Reynolds
Jedrzal Brodzki*

Krysslicya Evangelista*
Janeth Hernandez
Edwin Hollins
Dimarius Johnson
Laurie Keating
Rolanda Niz
Kevin Reid
Stephanie Rico**
Kimberly Ryan TAN
Alex Wieringa
Lequita Wilson

Associate in General Studies

Balinda M. Calmeter
Ashley Brittany Delaney
Katrina Michelle Donald- Stampley
Paz Franklin***
Shardae R. Gage
Ajanye Greene
Nicole Hudson
Lakeia S. Johnson
Alicia Jaelle Love
Aneena Mathew
Aina B. Modupe*
Tasheanna D. Moore
Martin Quiroga
Honda Latrice Smith
Rita Telle*
Jeanette M. Thomas
Jennie Van Groningen***

Associate in Science

Ashley H. Anderson**
Cody J. Arnold***
Deonna Carey
Oyeyemi Oluwaseyi Efunkoya*
Anhviet V. Le**
Songtoan Le**
Ricardo Martinez Jr.**
Nehmia Molla
Martin Daberechi Nwanguma*
Rishit S. Patel
Kailan Kree Richards
Christopher Ujigbe

*cum laude

**magna cum laude

***summa cum laude

Associate in Applied Science

Esmeralda Aguilar
Nicole Carter Aldridge
Opeyemi Elizabeth Apata
Austin E. Ashibuogwu
Hamdalat Ayanlaja
Diane Banks*
Marylyn Barraza
Montserrat Becerra
Donald L. Benkendorf III***
Tamika C. Bentley
Nancy Sherdonna Braziel
Tiffany Monique Brooks
Monique Celena Bunton
Joseph M. Butera***
Erica M. Carruthers
Scott Chuprevich*
LaCrisha Davis*
Latisha Davis
LaTinia Shaylonta Donald
Michelle R. Dowell
Cynthia Tabe Enow
Tiffany Evancho
LaSona M. Finley*
Evelyn Alexis Flores
Annette Flores
Samantha Frassinone
Olevia V. Fuller
Christopher M. Gale**
Mario Angel Garcia**
Angelica Horton
Darrell Matthew Huston
Paulette Jeanette Hyneman*
Angeline Tiera James
Clifford Koepke***
Tony C. Kurth
Olivia D. Lares
Alondra Leon
Aaliyah J. Lipscomb
Ilse A Lopez Palomo*
Daniela Lopez
Daniel Lundquist
Jose Martinez
Corey McNeil

Soretta M. Miller*
Jonquil Mitchell
James Anthony Molek***
Talisha L. Moman
Gabriella Alexia Moraga
Amanda Nicole Navarro
Frank Tyrone Nelson**
Uchechukwu Okoroigwe
Luke Peebles
Sadie Ann Perez
Amber Marie Petersen
Jessica Christine Polanski
Sharronne Alyce Jones
Donna Rolston**
Joel Ruiz Salazar
Priscilla Ama Sarpong
Melanie Schmidt
Breonna Brittany Schmidt
Sirena Shepherd
Mark J. Swanson
Rita Telle*
Chantel Monique Thurman
Rebekah S. Toepfer
Taylor Nicole Troli
Ari Israel Ward
Michelle Ondraya Washington
Whitney Aaliyah Washington
Brooke T. Wayne
Nyriah West
Ariane N. Wilson
Ali Wilson-Muhammad

Certificates

Sarah Alilovich***
David J. Bougie***
Amari Fisher***
Mario Angel Garcia**
Anthony Mar-Queen Higgins*
Jeanetta Holder
Tameka James
Daejah M. Jefferson
Whitney Sage McDade
Aniyah Moffett
Michael Malik Moore Jr
Frank Tyrone Nelson**
Luke Peebles
Justin Purnell
Jamile G. Ruiz
Leonardo Sanchez***
Mariah Angelina Santiago
Jonathan Santure*
Deborah J. Smyles
Rita Telle*
Asha Thompson
Lucia Sara Welsh*
Patriana Marlee White
Carlos Horta***
Alexa Weber

*cum laude

**magna cum laude

***summa cum laude

Summer 2021 Graduation Candidates

Associate in Arts

Sonia Elaine Cadien**
Taylor Nicole Fason
Mayra Flores*
Anthony Gazzillo*
Juan Gutierrez
Jalen Christopher Hardman
Bettina L. Harrell
Chloe Marie Kapica*
Jordyn Knapp***
Charles Marshall McGhee, Jr.
Lakeysha M. Mormon
Christian Ponce*
Anita Victoria Ramos
Alexis Robinson*
Eduardo Sandoval*
Joshua J. Tallant*
Brianna Bogan
Tyler Houston
Andrew Malone
Mahveecah Myles
Gail O'Banner
Diamond Price-Wright

Certificates

Brain Bos

Associate in General Studies

Martravius Allen
Tyressa Henderson
Ruth Lewis-Brown*

Associate in Science

Margaret D. Afolabi**
Alyssa Mariah Mykhel Wilson***

Associate in Applied Science

Ruby Contreras*
Tonisha Anntoinette Ezell
Kyra Farley
Shayla Lynette Griffin*
Oluwatobi Ahem Odetoyinbo
Kendra A.E. Johnson-Smith
Canesha S. Winfield

*cum laude

**magna cum laude

***summa cum laude

Notes on Academic Dress

Wearing academic regalia dates back to the Middle Ages, when a warm gown and hood were necessary during European winters when scholars lived, studied, and taught in unheated buildings. Now used only on formal academic occasions, caps and gowns indicate the degree earned, the discipline in which the degree is earned, and the institution granting that degree. The four basic academic degrees are the associate degree, the baccalaureate or bachelor's degree, the master's degree, and the doctorate.

Most of the gowns and caps worn by our faculty are black, the color agreed upon by American colleges and universities at the end of the 19th century. The associate and bachelor's gowns are sparsely cut, neat, and unadorned. The design of the sleeves denotes the type of degree held. The bachelor's sleeve is long and pointed. The master's sleeve has squared ends, with the arc of a circle near the bottom and a slit for the arm near the elbow. The doctor's sleeve is bell-shaped with three velvet bars; this robe also has velvet panels in front, in black or of a color symbolizing the wearer's field of learning.

Academic hoods are black, with a velvet colored border indicating the discipline in which the degree is awarded. The silk lining of the hood is in the colors of the institution. The length of the hood and width of the velvet border increase with the status of the degree conferred. The velvet edgings on faculty hoods are in colors established by the Intercollegiate Code to represent different departments of learning:

Arts, Letter, and Humanities - White	Library Science - Lemon	Physical Education - Sage Green
Business Administration - Olive Drab	Music - Pink	Science - Gold/Yellow
Economics - Copper	Nursing - Apricot	Social Science - Citron
Education - Light Blue	Speech - Silver Gray	Theology - Scarlet
Fine Arts - Brown	Philosophy - Dark Blue	

Academic costumes include the square cap, called a mortarboard and tassel. The doctor's tassels may be either black or gold. Tassels of all other degrees may be black or the color of the college or department from which the student graduated or is graduating. The tassel is moved to the left side of the cap after the certificate or degree has been conferred. Institutions may add distinctive variations, such as using a color other than black for the gown or replacing the black mortarboard with a soft velvet beret.

The Mace and College Seal

The academic procession is led by the grand marshal bearing the official mace of the college. The mace is a club-shaped staff used as a symbol of authority. It dates back to the Middle Ages when it was chiefly used as a weapon, but by the 14th century it had become ceremonial in use. The Prairie State College mace was redesigned in honor of the college's 35th anniversary. Approximately three feet long, it displays the official college seal at the top of the staff. The primary components of the college seal—found on the front cover of this program—are the college name, credo, and a traditional representation of an open book that symbolizes teaching and learning.

Our credo, *Scientia Pro Vita*, means "Knowledge for Life." A sunrise symbolizes enlightenment, hope, and progress. The laurel leaves communicate wisdom, experience, esteem, honor, and victory. Wheat, one of the chief agricultural products of Illinois, is a source of nourishment and symbol of life, growth, hope, and self-perpetuation. The fluid banner denotes the college's constant state of change and progress in responding to the needs and conditions of the community. The prairie is represented by the grasses, and the concentric rings convey the idea that education is continuous and unending.

Our Mission

Prairie State College fosters collaborative relationships that empower students to achieve their education and career goals. The college embraces its diversity, nurtures life-long learning, and supports community and economic development.

Our Core Values

Learning
Excellence
Accessibility
Respect
Integrity

Our Vision Statement

Prairie State College will offer rigorous academic programs, meet the needs of the local workforce, cultivate the values of sustainability, and demonstrate an awareness of its responsibilities in a global society.

About Prairie State College

Founded in 1957 as Bloom Township Junior College, Prairie State College held its first classes the next year in a local church. Originally established to offer only transfer liberal arts courses and occupational-technical courses, the college was reorganized in 1967 as a Class I junior college and renamed Prairie State College. In 1968, the college was housed in 10 interim buildings on its campus at Halsted Street and Vollmer Road. Construction of permanent facilities began in fall 1972 and was completed for the 1975-76 academic year.

A new Library, the Christopher Art Gallery and the Business & Community Education Center opened in 1996; the Matteson Area Center, in 1998; and the Health/Tech Center, in 2000. The Fitness Complex, including the Pioneer Fieldhouse in which today's commencement is held, opened in 2001. Three years later the Adult Training and Outreach Center and the Children's Learning Center were dedicated.

Alumni



Prairie State College Alumni

Congratulations on your graduation! You are now a Prairie State College alumnus. Please go to our website at prairiestate.edu/foundation and follow the "Alumni and Friends" link to fill out the Alumni Form and "like" us on Facebook. We want to hear from you as you start the next phase of your life, and keep you informed about events happening at the college.



Prairie State College

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Start near. Go far. Stay safe.

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