



*Hooding and
Commencement Ceremony
2026*

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
WAIT CHAPEL
1 P.M. SATURDAY, MAY 16





Hooding & Commencement

Hooding and Commencement Ceremony 2026
Wake Forest University
School of Professional Studies
Wait Chapel
Saturday, May 16, 1:00 PM

Organ Prelude	Susan H. Bates
Fantasia in G Major, BWV 572 Johann Sebastian Bach	
Concerto I in G Major, BWV 592 Johann Sebastian Bach	
And Peace Can Be Exchanged Dan Locklair	
Greetings & Welcome	Lori Bequette <i>Associate Dean, Graduate Programs and Information Technology</i>
Processional	
Phoenix Processional.... Dan Locklair	
Opening Remarks and Introduction of Speaker	Charles Iacovou <i>Dean, School of Professional Studies</i>
Keynote Address	Melinda Cooley <i>Vice President of Manufacturing Excellence, Honeywell International Inc.</i>
Congratulatory Remarks	Susan R. Wente <i>University President</i>
Conferral of Degrees	Charles Iacovou <i>Dean, School of Professional Studies</i> Susan R. Wente <i>University President</i>
Presentation & Hooding of the Graduates	Lori Bequette <i>Associate Dean, Graduate Programs and Information Technology</i>
	Tricia Richards-Service <i>Academic Director, Master of Communications</i> Adam Dovico <i>Academic Director, Master of Curriculum & Instruction and Master of Educational Leadership</i>

Ged King
Academic Director, Master of Digital Marketing
Joseph Atatsi
Academic Director, Master of Enterprise Risk Management
Mohamed Desoky
Academic Director, Master of Financial Technology and Analytics
Debra Wolf
Academic Director, Master of Health Administration and Master of Health Informatics
Wayne Brantley
Academic Director, Master of Project Management
Cardra Burns
Academic Director, Master of Public Administration

Concluding Remarks

Charles Iacovou
Dean, School of Professional Studies

Recessional

Susan H. Bates

Toccata (from Symphony V) Charles M. Widor

Reception

Green Room/Reynolda Hall

Note: The Green Room is accessible through the second-floor lobby of Reynolda Hall, which opens onto Hearn Plaza. Hearn Plaza is equipped with ramps. To access the Green Room from the first floor, enter the building on a ramp and take the elevator to the second floor.

*SPS Hooding Ceremony hashtags #wakesps2026 and #wfugrad
Please silence all mobile devices during the ceremony.*

Program Notes

Keynote Speaker



Melinda Cooley is a global operations executive specializing in enterprise transformation, supply chain design, and manufacturing performance systems. As Vice President of Manufacturing Excellence at Honeywell, she leads the global design model for end-to-end supply chain, enterprise-wide Lean deployment across factory networks, and the digitization of operational systems. Her work focuses on building scalable operating models that integrate performance discipline, data analytics, and execution rigor to drive sustained growth and operational resilience. Throughout her career, Melinda has led large-scale operational transformations across complex industrial environments. She began her career at Caterpillar Inc., where she held progressive operations leadership roles and developed deep expertise in Six Sigma and production system deployment. She later joined Amsted Industries, where she implemented agile operating approaches and delivered measurable financial and operational improvements within an employee-owned structure. Since joining Honeywell, she has driven multiple business transformations aligned to revenue growth, enterprise capability development, and performance optimization.

Melinda holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership, reflecting her commitment to integrating executive practice with leadership scholarship. She is a certified Six Sigma Black Belt and Caterpillar Production System Black Belt and serves on the Program Advisory Board at Wake Forest University. Melinda and her husband have one adult daughter; outside of work, she enjoys outdoor pursuits, live music, and competitive pickleball.

Academic Regalia

Candidates for and holders of the master and doctorate degrees wear hoods over their robes as part of their academic regalia. The hood symbolizes heavy burden and identifies the level of the degree, the field of learning, and the institution that awards it. The color of the trimming declares the major field of learning.

About Wake Forest University's School of Professional Studies

Wake Forest University created the School of Professional Studies (SPS) to accelerate the professional growth of adult learners across their careers and support the talent development needs of organizations through accessible, flexible, and cutting-edge educational experiences. At Wake Forest University, you'll gain a rare and valuable blend of leadership—combining academic and practical industry expertise—that empowers you to advance your career, your organization, and your community.

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Communications

Conferred August 24, 2025

Cresta Archuletta Mauldin, Yadkinville, North Carolina
Corliss Evern Cook, Atlanta, Georgia
Doristine Devine, Hollandale, Mississippi
Connor Charles Dukes, Charlotte, North Carolina
Isabel Grace Glasson, Woodway, Texas
Elizabeth Inez Jefferson, Bedford, Virginia

Conferred December 19, 2025

Dustin J. Carrasco, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Erica Ann Coppola, Staten Island, New York
Melissa Klein, Macon, Georgia
Devin Abraham Kylany, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Deanna Holt Miller, Jamestown, North Carolina*
Austin Bailey Norris, Hixson, Tennessee
Dorcas Ndjeka Okese, Locust, North Carolina
Amogh M. Rao, Gaithersburg, Maryland
Devon Townsend, McLeansville, North Carolina
Trajaun Warren, Charlotte, North Carolina
Corddarryl La'Quinton Williamson-Rose, Hillsborough, North Carolina*

Conferred May 18, 2026

Brandi Barron, Birmingham, Alabama
Zavian Bell, Willingboro, New Jersey
Sterling Berkhalter, Cincinnati, Ohio
Reagan Leigh Biesenthal, Olathe, Kansas*
Courtney Cochran, Chattanooga, Tennessee
Antonio Maurice Daniels, Covington, Georgia

Lance E. J. Gill Jr., Brooklyn, New York
Melody Florence Harvey, Van Buren Township, Michigan
Tunicker Maria Jones, Covington, Georgia
Lori L. Lyle, Middletown, Ohio
Anayah Lanelle Machine, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Charlene Barton Martinez, San Antonio, Texas
Hailey Nerissa Mason, Decatur, Georgia
John Francis Silver Sr., Farmington, Connecticut
Tatyana Streater, Salisbury, North Carolina
Evita Valdez, Winston-Salem, North Carolina*
Casey Briana Weidenfeld, Pembroke Pines, Florida*
Shavon Wilcher, Charlotte, North Carolina

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Curriculum and Instruction

Conferred August 21, 2024

Mary Josephine Juran Ambrose, Hendersonville, North Carolina*

Conferred August 24, 2025

Alexandria Marie Hodges, Winston-Salem, North Carolina*

Conferred December 19, 2025

Jasmine Amaia Johnson, Kernersville, North Carolina
Katelyn Saner, Pfafftown, North Carolina

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Digital Marketing

Conferred December 20, 2024

Ava Christine Lambert, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Conferred August 24, 2025

Susan Cooper Bowman, Charlotte, North Carolina
Robert Brown, Davidson, North Carolina
Melina Cioffi, Mogadore, Ohio
Gabrielle Coburn, East Hampton, Connecticut
Erin Elizabeth Davis, Greenville, South Carolina
Courtney Paige Dobson, Saint Louis, Missouri*
Natalia Levina, Henderson, Nevada
D'Malyah Anzelle Lewis, Durham, North Carolina
Destiny Marie Mickell, Charlotte, North Carolina
Kerissa Newsome, Greenville, North Carolina
Olivia Norman, Arden, North Carolina
Angel Nicole Ross, Charlotte, North Carolina
Alexis Nitavanh Sirimongkhon, Whitsett, North Carolina*
Lauren Skeen, Little Rock, Arkansas
Skylar Bryn Sload, Keswick, Virginia*
Conor Sloan, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina

Mason Anne Starling, Tampa, Florida*
Catherine Katrina Swaine, Quinton, Virginia*
Beth Weissman, Baltimore, Maryland
Elizabeth Young, The Woodlands, Texas*

Conferred December 19, 2025

Dakhari Campbell, Louisville, Kentucky
Kathleen Cheon, Irvine, California
William Taft Cobb, Matthews, North Carolina
Carl Wyatt Crespi, Waxhaw, North Carolina
McKenna Exline, Gibsonia, Pennsylvania
Sophia Elizabeth Faircloth, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Courtney Fanter, Beaufort, South Carolina
Gianna Christine Gallego, Weston, Florida
Langston Hardy, Jacksonville, Florida
Dorri Kannell, Florham Park, New Jersey*
Jessica Erin Lopez, White Oak, North Carolina
Quinnyanna Samille Mcghee, Charlotte, North Carolina
Garrett Cameron Perkins, Durham, North Carolina
America Valeria Revelo Jiron, Kernersville, North Carolina
Kendra Harrison Sofela, Charlotte, North Carolina*

Conferred May 18, 2026

Brianna Amira LaShayae Abraham, Augusta, Georgia
Amanda Lynn Barnette, Wilmington, North Carolina
Sarah Ann Uselton Blackwell, Danbury, North Carolina
Riley Greer Bowman, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Ashley Bray, Kernersville, North Carolina
Susie Marie Bryant, Atlanta, Georgia
Thomas Charles Conrad, Lexington, North Carolina*
Jennifer Curran, Forest Hills, New York*
Mckenna Christian Flanary, Easton, Pennsylvania
Zachary Nicolas Gracia, Woodland, California
Amy Elise Griglak, Chandler, Arizona*
Mikala Alexandra King, Durham, North Carolina
Zoe Kate Brenner Kurtz, Winston-Salem, North Carolina*
Josie Kate McDevitt, Maryville, Tennessee
Davon Richmond, Laurens, South Carolina
Tyler Salanitro, Hope Mills, North Carolina
Sabastian Sab Sengsouriya, Jonesboro, Georgia
Katelyn Marie Shull, Warrenton, Virginia
Jordyn Marie Springer, Florence, Wisconsin*
Katrina Donohue Swenson, Avondale, Pennsylvania

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Educational Leadership

Conferred August 24, 2025

Kali Hudgins Cooper, Raleigh, North Carolina*
Katherine Lynn Dye, Graham, North Carolina*
Holly Christine Hedrick, High Point, North Carolina*
Chelsea Lewis, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Le Quan M. McCorkle, Maiden, North Carolina
Jada Spain, Blythewood, South Carolina

Conferred December 19, 2025

Daniel Donat Gould, Moodus, Connecticut
Sydney Rene Hand, Raleigh, North Carolina
Erma Crystal Ingram, Charlotte, North Carolina*
Young Lee, Greensboro, North Carolina*
Chad Pardue, Adelphi, Maryland*
Cori Pysch, Waxhaw, North Carolina*
Rachel Udasin Schwartz, Waxhaw, North Carolina*
Tegan Jemma Stanford, Raleigh, North Carolina

Conferred May 18, 2026

Kimberly Anne Hembree, Sophia, North Carolina*
Carlos Traiquon Nadal, Hamilton, Ohio
Christopher Thomas Rodriguez, Rockville, Maryland*
Myberson Saint-Pierre, New York, New York
Shetaria Newrine Shuff, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Djidhari Smith, Shelby, North Carolina
Kristen Noella Thomas, Sanford, North Carolina

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Enterprise Risk Management

Conferred May 18, 2026

Lejla Juliet Dziljaj, Commerce Township, Michigan
Max Michael Gamble, Fort Worth, Texas
Dustin Gibson, Gastonia, North Carolina
Catherine Mitchell, Durham, North Carolina
Isabelle Maya Novak, Branchburg, New Jersey
Jack Robert Sildat, Mountainside, New Jersey
Eddie Simmons Jr., Savannah, Georgia*

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Financial Technology and Analytics

Conferred August 24, 2025

John Hale Condon, Sarasota, Florida
Michael Kinsherf, Abington, Massachusetts
Kyle Young, Mineola, New York

Conferred December 19, 2025

Ryan Donovan, Cranford, New Jersey*
Chehannah Hayden, Gastonia, North Carolina
Da-Won Lee, High Point, North Carolina
George Sadler, Mechanicsville, Virginia
Joshua Salter, Memphis, Tennessee
Arjun Mitesh Shah, Atlanta, Georgia*

Conferred May 18, 2026

Mason R. Ellis, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Kerry Lindsay Goode Jr., Chesterfield, Virginia
Tevin DeAndre Gripper, Detroit, Michigan
Dylan Cole Hazen, The Woodlands, Texas
Kaliah Hughes-Bester, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Jake Daniel Langlois, Raleigh, North Carolina
Francisco Jesús Mones Peña, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
John Allen Peterson, Elon, North Carolina
Robert Carter Pettus, Corpus Christi, Texas
Jameko Javon Pinder, Nassau, Bahamas
Chandler N. Swanson, Charlotte, North Carolina
Grigory Terentiev, Charlotte, North Carolina
Anna Zou, Jacksonville, Florida*

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Health Administration

Conferred August 24, 2025

Kevin Christopher Martin, Winston-Salem, North Carolina*
Robin Miller, Charlotte, North Carolina*
Mostofa Naafi, Dacula, Georgia
Sarah Marie Swann, Atlanta, Georgia

Conferred December 19, 2025

Jaime Emanuel Cruz Hernandez, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Kaylee Vernell Hines, Rex, Georgia
Christian James Lassiter, Hilliard, Ohio
Tashiana Shade McBride, Biscoe, North Carolina
Oluseun Onafowora, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Brittney Patterson, Lewisville, North Carolina
Mazhar Toqeer, Harrisburg, North Carolina

Conferred May 18, 2026

Ashley Brown, Burlington, North Carolina
Briteny Nichole Darnell-Greene, Ronda, North Carolina
Grace Elizabeth Griffin, Concord, North Carolina
Allison Marie Hickey, Centreville, Virginia
Chelsea Dawn Hooker, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Amelia Morgan Hoskins, Gastonia, North Carolina

Ehshi Kapru Htoo, Winston-Salem, North Carolina*
Youssef Tarek Kelany, Alexandria, Egypt
Frances Nicole Melendez-Rodriguez, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida*
Dipali Gaurang Shah, Charlotte, North Carolina
Brianna Simpson, Danville, Virginia
Arianna Renee Stanback, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Salime Stringer, Cleveland, North Carolina*
Caitlin Tameris, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania
Morgan Witherspoon, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Health Informatics

Conferred August 24, 2025

Charlotte Naomi Maylani Augenstein, Hoschton, Georgia
Laura Springfield Delong, Downingtown, Pennsylvania
Catherine Marie Walker Johnson, St. Augustine, Florida
Martinelli Victor Valcin, Allston, Massachusetts
Arnetia Janee Vaughn-Scott, Detroit, Michigan

Conferred December 19, 2025

Mary Beth Papelera Alova, Raleigh, North Carolina
Aisha Barnard, Fort Mill, South Carolina
Lady Cyndy Cacal, Trinity, North Carolina
Ewyn Angela Christian Hicks, Mebane, North Carolina
Ian J. Kleinfeld, Durham, North Carolina
Seema Ravishankar, Richmond, Virginia*
Joshua Brodde Seguin, Mooresville, North Carolina*
James Allen Smeltzer, Charlotte, North Carolina

Conferred May 18, 2026

Akilah Chance, Wadesboro, North Carolina
Nyia Mahari Cummings, Upper Marlboro, Maryland
Kanisha Matiese Davis, Wilmington, North Carolina
Jermaine A. Gordon, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Kristin Anne Beaton James, South River, New Jersey
Bridget Keeler, Raleigh, North Carolina
Harrison McGovern, Seattle, Washington
Najla Muhammad, Charlotte, North Carolina
Heidi Lanning O'Malley, The Woodlands, Texas*
Jasmin Lanae Payne, Palm Bay, Florida
Carmen Marie Pugh, Burlington, North Carolina
Bryn Ashley Quirk, Boxborough, Massachusetts
Atalie Smith, Sanford, Florida
Lucian Gabriel Vlad, Oak Ridge, North Carolina*
Luther Walter Weah, Charlotte, North Carolina
David Eric Wild, Raleigh, North Carolina*

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Project Management

Conferred August 24, 2025

Timothy Ronald Boothe, Hickory, North Carolina
Adriel Davis, Washington, District of Columbia
Thomas Christopher Elliott, Josephine, Alabama
Nicolas Fontalvo, Piedmont, South Carolina
Michael Scott Frogge, Greensboro, North Carolina
Zachery Holley, Huntersville, North Carolina
Amelia Jones, Knoxville, Tennessee
Jurnee Danielle Kelley, Fortville, Indiana
Jasmine Seward, Wake Forest, North Carolina
Christian Joseph Yates, Whittier, North Carolina

Conferred December 19, 2025

Nicholas Andersen, Clifton, Virginia
Jake Matthew Benzinger, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Cierra Nicole Bodrick, Monroe, North Carolina
Josephine Leigh Cranfill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Makaela Gorham, Grimesland, North Carolina
Liesl Groman, Orlando, Florida*
Julieta Marmolejo, Pinnacle, North Carolina
Jacqueline Olson, Peyton, Colorado
Sawyer Glen Racanelli, Brush Prairie, Washington
George Kennedy Sell, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Hali Christian Shropshire, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida*
James L. Thomas III, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Ashley Nicole Washington, Clayton, North Carolina
Brandon Williams, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Tyler Yon, Raleigh, North Carolina

Conferred May 18, 2026

Isabelle Ambrose, Charlotte, North Carolina
Chan-ung An, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Keyanla Clark, Charlotte, North Carolina
Kevin Daryl Cook, Walnut Cove, North Carolina
Jasmine Alisha Dabney, Raleigh, North Carolina*
Isaac Nuwaele Doetein, Monrovia, Liberia
Emily Louise Johns, Washington Township, New Jersey
William Earl Kearney II, Warrenton, North Carolina
Victoria Jackson Little, Concord, North Carolina*
Courtney W. Phillips, Tehachapi, California
Nareea Pierre, Raleigh, North Carolina
India Chelsea Robinson, Charlotte, North Carolina
Lisa Alton Rodriguez, North Bethesda, Maryland
Jasmine Travieso, Raleigh, North Carolina
Charles Anthony White, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Public Administration

Conferred May 18, 2026

Tiara Monae' Adams, Clover, South Carolina
Shailee Banskota, Tampa, Florida*
Kayla C. Bittle, Charlotte, North Carolina
Tracey Leigh Butler, Beverly, Massachusetts
James Glen Cosgrove, Austin, Texas*
Matthew Sison Dennis, Charlotte, North Carolina
Asha Nicole Sullivan Givhan, Atlanta, Georgia
Jaylon E. Herbin, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Corey Bernard Mackey, Brevard, North Carolina
Keenan Arthur McKenley, Rochester, New York
Mayah Grace Morris, Wilmington, North Carolina
Jovon Mosley, Tampa, Florida
Alexis Christina Oliver, Garner, North Carolina
James Wilson Ridenhour Jr., Richfield, North Carolina
Michele Slawon Tokpah, Charlotte, North Carolina
Garrison Brian Wagoner, Sparta, North Carolina

denotes Academic Distinction*

