FRIENDSHIP COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024 | 1 PM Audi Field & Friendship Virtual Auditorium

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Congratulations Class of 2024

Year after year, I watch our impressive graduates walk across the stage with proud, beaming smiles to receive the diplomas that you have justly earned. The opportunity to present these diplomas is a highlight of the year for me, your teachers, your families, and the Board of Trustees of Friendship Public Charter School.

This is a moment brimming over with opportunity. Your next steps will require more of you – more effort, more creativity, and more leadership. But you will persevere because you have persevered and you will succeed because, as this special day acknowledges, you have succeeded!

The day will come some years in the future when you say that you were part of the historic class of 2024. It will happen as part of the recognition as to how the world had to adjust to a pandemic, to tragedy, and to unrest. And you will be among those celebrated as the ones who launched a new era of peace and prosperity.

We celebrate you with congratulations for today and with confidence for the future. The road forward will not be easy, but we are in a time of renewal. We want you to know how very much your lives matter to all of us.



Sincerely, Donald Hense

Donald L. Hense Founder and Chairman

FROM THE CEO



Be the Change We Seek

Friendship Collegiate Graduates:

True greatness calls for courage and good judgment. Sometimes it seeks patience, sometimes speed. It always requires respect and deep determination.

The graduates you see before you today know something about greatness. They have earned their way to the podium, through no easy path but by learning, understanding, and practicing the principles of greatness.

At Friendship, our graduates have had the opportunity to see the world through many lenses. They have been exposed to the extraordinary and the uncomfortable. They have learned to communicate, both by speaking up and by listening. They have built bridges they had never imagined and built bonds for life.

Always, they have had to work hard. And along the way, each of them has laid the foundations for a lifetime of learning and leadership.

Knowledge is power, never more so than in the hands of the bright, fearless, educated leaders who stand before you today.

Friendship has prepared these graduates not just for college but for all that lies beyond – careers of their choosing. Confidence to face challenges head-on. Contributions to their communities. Most of all, the passion, courage, and capacity to chase their dreams.

And that is truly great. Congratulations 2024 graduates.

We applaud YOU!

Patricia Brantley CEO

FROM MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

Congratulations Friendship Collegiate Academy Class of 2024

May 23, 2024

As Mayor of Washington, DC, I am deeply honored to join your family, friends, neighbors, teachers, and your school administrators in extending congratulations to the Friendship Collegiate Academy Class of 2024!

High school is a critical time for self-exploration, personal growth, and taking on new challenges. Even when the challenges you faced were unexpected, such as the global pandemic, you adapted and persevered with the support of the entire District, and I am so proud of you.

Graduating in Washington, DC connects you to the world in a special way. I trust your student experience will continue to empower you to become the best version of yourself and shape your journey beyond graduation into a bright future.

Your future is yours to define. I encourage you to continue to work hard and strive for excellence.

On behalf of the nearly 700,000 residents of Washington, DC, I congratulate you on your accomplishment. May success follow you always.

Muriel Bowser Mayor, Washington, DC







FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear graduates, parents, members of the board, esteemed faculty and staff, honored guests:

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the 22nd Annual Commencement Ceremony for the Friendship Collegiate Academy Early College High School. For the last 16 years, I have had the awesome task of sending our young people into the world with what I hope is sage yet practical advice, words of hope and optimism that still carry the weight of the daunting responsibility that lies ahead. Each year, I struggle with the fact that I am one of the last voices they will hear as children because this ceremony is in fact a celebration of their entrance into the adult world. In this ceremony they cross the threshold, leave childhood and childish concerns behind to grandly enter the world of university and work.

As I began to prepare my final words to the Class of 2024, I found myself thinking deeply about world quite different from the world parents, your teachers, or I entered upon graduating high school and college. As a nation, we face unprecedented challenges: an economic recession, an energy crisis, the ongoing cultural wars, and the environmental threat. In our communities, some of us face even bleaker possibilities as we battle addiction, poverty, and a pervasive, persistent sense of hopelessness.

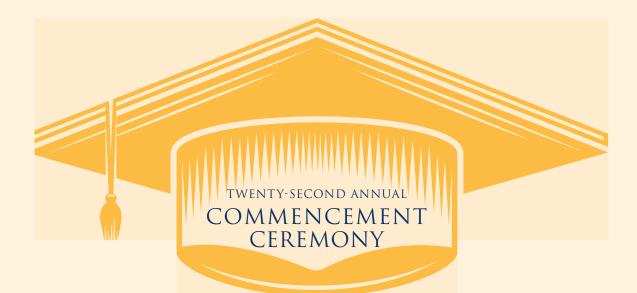
Yet even in the midst of pain and crises, opportunities bloom. There is an abundance of beauty, hope, and optimism. I see this optimistic determination everyday as I travel throughout the building. I see it, as I look out in the audience at your eager, young, gifted faces, so ready to begin the next chapter of your lives. As you can see, the world is desperately awaiting your dogged persistence, unwavering commitment, steady patience, generous compassion, steadfast responsibility, confident leadership, resolute integrity, and noble respect for humanity.

My charge to you is to take these eight essential core values—persistence, commitment, patience, compassion, responsibility, confidence, integrity, and respect, the values that you have spent the last four years mastering, and let them guide you during your successes and your failures to come. Demonstrate to the world the raw intellectual and ethical power a Friendship Collegiate Academy scholar holds: Remember what we have taught you about patience, persistence, commitment and responsibility when you are struggling with a course or a concept as you adjust to the rigors of university; exercise compassion, patience, and respect when you are faced with challenging people and unfamiliar circumstances; show confidence and integrity when confronting difficult moral quandaries and ethical dilemmas.

This is the path that you have been groomed to follow; this is the path you must choose to create your most authentic life. It is the gift you must give to yourself and then to the world. As Barak Obama has taught us, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." Therefore, in this rich and troubling world, in this time of equality and disparity, hope and fear, I ask you who will you be. How will you serve? How will you use the education that transformed your life to transform the world?

With Love,

Dr. Peggy Jones Principal



Mistress and Master of Ceremonies Dr. Carlos Richardson, FCA Social Studies Teacher and Jaraina Jamison, FCA Social Studies Teacher

Class of 2024 Processional "Pomp and Circumstance"

The National Anthem | FCA Choir | Reginald Golden, FCA Director

Introduction of Speaker | Diamond Fowler, Mayor Class of 2024

Commencement Address

Donna Brazile Former DNC Chairwoman, ABC Contributor & NYT Best-selling Author

Musical Selection | FCA Choir | Reginald Golden, FCA Director

Perseverance Award | Dr. Peggy Jones, Principal

Community Spirit Award | Jerome Young, FCA Academy Director

Presentation of Valedictorian & Salutatorian | Dr. Peggy Jones, Principal

Valedictorian Address | Jeremiah Barnes, Class of 2024 Valedictorian

Message from FPCS Founder & Chairman | Donald L. Hense, Founder & Chairman

Musical Selection | FCA Choir | Reginald Golden, FCA Director

Conferring of the Diplomas | D.C. Public Charter School Board Member

Presentation of Class of 2024 | Dr. Peggy Jones, Principal

Awarding of Diplomas

Tamara DiRobbio, College & Career Counselor | Marion Malone, Guidance Counselor Naima Wallace, Senior Class Sponsor | Kaiee Hooper, Senior Class Sponsor

Musical Selection | FCA Choir | Reginald Golden, FCA Director

Charge & Acceptance of the Class of 2024 | Vielka Scott-Marcus, Chief Academic Officer, FPCS

Senior Class Charge | Paris Barnes, Class of 2024 President

Special Presentation | Jordan Rouse, Class of 2024 Vice President | Treasure Jenkins, Class of 2024 Secretary

Recessional | Class of 2024

COLLEGIATE CLASS OF 2024

Haneef Abdul-Hakim

Livingstone College, University of the District of Columbia, Wheeling University

Jahlil Abdul-Sabur

Montgomery College, NewU University, University of the District of Columbia

Soraya K. S. Ali

Mary Baldwin University, Marymount University, Trinity Washington University, University of the District of Columbia, Washington Adventist University

Emonie Anderson

Livingstone University, Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College, South Carolina State University, University of the District of Columbia, Wilberforce University

Parris Ke'yonnie Barnes

Coppin State University, Hampton University, Livingstone College, Morgan State University, Norfolk State University Old Dominion University, Southern University at New Orleans, Trinity Washington University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Winston Salem State University

Jeremiah Barnes Jr.

Central State University, Georgia State University, Livingston College, Louisiana State University, Morgan State University Norfolk State University, North Carolina A&T State University, Prince George's Community College, Temple University, University of the District of Columbia

Sylvanus Bickersteth

Chesapeake College, Montgomery College, Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College

Ameia Brisbon

Montgomery College, University of the District of Columbia

Jamyia Brown

Carroll College, Clark Atlanta University, George Mason University, Jackson State University, Norfolk University, North Carolina Central University, Old Dominion University, Shaw University, Towson University, University of the District of Columbia, West Virginia State University

La'Yonna Brown

Alabama A&M University, Grambling State University, Jackson State University, Miles College, North Carolina Central University, Prince George's Community College, Shaw University, Voorhees University

Michael Brown

Howard University, Livingstone College, Northern Virginia Community College

Sarenity Brown

Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Sha'kia Brown

Livingstone College, Marshall University, Mount Aloysius College, Prince George's Community College,

Joseph Burton Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Jailen Bynum

Clark Atlanta University, Georgia State University, Morgan State University, Virginia State University

Ja'Juan Cash

Montgomery College, University of the District of Columbia

Makayla Cheatham

Northern Virginia Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Je'niya Clark-Gregory

Anne Arundel Community College, Community College Prep, Prince George's Community College

Autumn Coleman

Livingstone College, Northern Virginia Community College

Kenya Coley

Norfolk State University, Prince George's Community College, Xavier University of Louisiana

Dionna Collins

Livingstone College, University of the District of Columbia, Wilberforce University

Darrell Cook

Livingstone College, Marshall University, Morgan State University, Prince George's Community College, Towson University, University of the District of Columbia

DeAndre Cook Penn State University

Khadijah Cooper Temple University, Virginia Commonwealth University

Antwanae Cosby

Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College

Jayden Credit

Livingstone College, NewU University, Prince George's Community College

JiQuari Davis

Northern Virginia Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Selina Senya Duarte

Morgan State University, Norfolk State University, Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia Commonwealth University

Addison Fair

Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Cecil Fergusson Jr.

Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College

De'Asya Ford

Clark Atlanta University, Illinois State University, Montgomery College, Norfolk State University, North Carolina A&T University, North Carolina Central University, Prince George's Community College, Temple University, University of the District of Columbia

Diamond Geneva Mykiea Fowler

Livingstone College, Prince George's Community College

London Galbraith

Jackson State University, Livingstone College, Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College, Shaw University, University of the District of Columbia, Voorhees University

Yaqin Gant

Albright College, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, Marshall University, North Carolina Central University, Notre Dame of Maryland University, University of the District of Columbia, University of Hartford

Lena Gonzales

Columbia College of Chicago, Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Kameron Grant

Harcum Community College, Prince George's Community College

Tyaira Hager

Alvernia University, Central State University, Delaware State University, Jackson State University, Juniata College, Montgomery College, Norfolk State University, North Carolina Central University, Old Dominion University Prince George's Community College, Shaw University, University of the District of Columbia, University of Maryland Eastern Shore"

Jayden Amari Harris

Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Pierre Hernandez William

Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Jaelin Monae Hicks

Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College, Trinity Washington University, Wilberforce University

Marcus Hill

Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Kamiya Hooker

Benedict College, Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee, Wilberforce University

Jaida Hooks

Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Jazz House

Montgomery College, University of the District of Columbia, University of Maryland Global Campus

Kaniya Howard

Livingstone College

Izaiah Huggans

Elizabeth City State University, North Carolina Central University, Prince George's Community College, Talladega College, Virginia State University

Makhi Hughes

Marshall University, Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Desiree Jenifer

Cleveland State University, Livingstone College, Mount St. Mary's University, West Virginia State University, William Paterson University

COLLEGIATE CLASS OF 2024

Treasure Anyiah Jenkins

Alabama State University, Fayetteville State University, Florida A&M University, Morgan State University, Prince George's Community College, South Carolina State University, Wilberforce University, Xavier University

Michael Jeter

Delaware State University, Marshall University, Montgomery College, Morgan State University, Prince George's Community College

Aniya Johnson University of the District of Columbia

Kennedy Lauren Johnson

Livingstone College, Morgan State University, Norfolk State University, University of the District of Columbia, Wilberforce University

Terrell Jones

Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Makaio Keels-Johnson

Bethune Cookman University, North Carolina Central University, Prince George's Community College, Tennessee State University, University of the District of Columbia

Terrion Keyes Livingstone College, Mary Baldwin University, University of the District of Columbia

JaKayla Kinney Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Christopher Lane Jr. Marshall University, Old Dominion University, Prince George's Community College, Temple University, Virginia

Garrison Mack University of the District of Columbia

Davon Marshall Bowie State University, Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College

Delonna Martin Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College

Donye' Massey-Jackson

State University

Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Ciara McArthur

Montgomery College, Northern Virginia Community College

Imara McClam

Montgomery College, Northern Virginia Community College

Taajah McDonald

Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Helesha Mohamad

Garrett College, Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Marquis Monk

Livingstone College, Montgomery College, University of the District of Columbia

Dashawn Monroe Montgomery College, Northern Virginia Community College

Paris Murray Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Sonai Nicholson

Mount St. Mary's University, Norwich University, Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia, Washington Adventist University

Dorian Norman

Montgomery College, University of the District of Columbia

Demetrius Oliver Prince George's Community College, Virginia Union University

Ronte Pelzer

Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Janae Dimond Phelps

Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College, University of the District of Columbia

D'avani Porter

Montgomery College, Northern Virginia Community College

Darian Queen

Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Ronelle Ray

Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College

Jamia Richardson

Livingstone College, Montgomery College Mount St. Mary's University, Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College, Trinity Washington University

Lamonte Robertson

Laurel Ridge Community College, Livingstone College, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Darntrell T. Roland

Livingstone College, University of the District of Columbia, Wheeling University

Stephen Roland

Anne Arundel Community College, Montgomery College

Ricayla Ross

Edward Waters University, Montgomery College, South Carolina State University, University of the District of Columbia

Jordan Rouse

Albright College, American University, James Madison University, Montclair State University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Prince George's Community College, State University of New York-Oswego, Temple University, University of the District of Columbia, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech University

Jhalil Scott

Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College

Samae Simmons Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Asiah Smith Alabama A&M University, University of the District of Columbia

Dontrell K. Smith

Livingstone College, Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia, Wheeling University

Jonathan Smith

Gannon University, Marshall University, Marymount University, Morgan State University, Mount St. Mary's University, North Carolina Central University, St. Thomas University, Wilkes University

Tionna Smith

Trinity Washington University, University of the District of Columbia

Keyon Starkey-Webb

Livingstone College, South Carolina State University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University

Dylan Stewart

University of South Carolina

Shaniya Kimani Taylor

Alabama State University, Goucher College, Juniata College, Louisiana State University, Marymount University, Michigan State University, Morgan State University, North Carolina Central University, Temple University, University of Oregon, Virginia State University, West Virginia State University

Elena Thomas

Northern Virginia CC

Trevon A. Thomas

NewU University, Northern Virginia Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Malakhi Thompson

Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Brenton Toles

Hampton University, Prince George's Community College

La'Sky Toogood

Culinary Institute of America, Morgan State University, Prince George's Community College, Virginia State University

Malik Vann

Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Camari Venable

University of the District of Columbia

Jessie Vines

John Melvin University, Montgomery Community College, Prince George's Community College

Lillian Washington

Montgomery College, Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia, West Virginia State University

Ste'niya Imari Watson

Prince George's Community College, Shaw University

COLLEGIATE CLASS OF 2024

Donte West

Prince George's Community College, University of Pennsylvania, Virginia Union University

Jayda West

Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Tylar Dayonni Whitby

Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College

Caden K. White

Hampton University, Kent State University, Morgan State University, NewU University, Northern Virginia Community College, North Carolina A&T University, Prince George's Community College, Temple University, Tennessee State University, Towson University, University of Houston, University of North Carolina Charlotte, University of North Texas, University of Toledo, West Virginia University

Eriana Taniyah White

Clark Atlanta University, Coppin State University, Georgia State University, Morgan State University, Norfolk State University, North Carolina State University Prince George's Community College, St. Mary's University of Maryland, Temple University, Trinity Washington University, University of the District of Columbia, University of Hartford, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia Commonwealth University, Winston Salem State University

Juriel White

Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College

Carlos Williams

Montgomery College, Prince George's Community College, University of the District of Columbia

Kaiden Williams

Edward Waters University, Marshall University, Montgomery College, Morgan State University, Norfolk State University

DenaJah Ayona Wilson

Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Delaware State University, Jackson State University, Norfolk State University, North Carolina Central University, Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College, Shaw University, Trinity Washington University, University of the District of Columbia, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Wilberforce University, Xavier University of Louisiana

Jamisha Wilson

Grambling State University, Lafayette College, Marymount University, Montgomery College, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina Central University, Prince George's Community College, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Lakisha Wright

Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College

2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Soraya K. S. Ali\$164,560Ciara McArthur\$36,Parris Ke'yonnie Barnes\$56,455Imara McClam\$14,Jeremiah Barnes Jr.\$265,470Taajah McDonald\$7,Jarnyia Brown\$123,703Marquis Monk\$7,La'Yonna Brown\$9,895Dashawn Monroe\$36,Michael Brown\$222,816Sonai Nicholson\$195,Sarenity Brown\$7,395Dorian Norman\$36,Sha'kia Brown\$57,995Demetrius Oliver\$7,Joseph Burton\$36,560Jamia Richardson\$143,Jailen Bynum\$55,395Lamonte Robertson\$43,Ja'yan Cash\$7,395Stephen Roland\$36,Dionna Collins\$7,395Stephen Roland\$36,Darrell Cook\$36,643Jordan Rouse\$390,DeAndre Cook\$210,440Dontrell K. Smith\$198,Khadijah Cooper\$60,000Jonathan Smith\$375,	970 395 395 560 395 560 395 560 395 560 560 495
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Kameron Grant\$27,395Lillian Washington\$53,Tyaira Hager\$173,895Donte West\$357,	895
Tyaira Hager\$173,895Donte West\$357,	955
	891
Jayden Amari Harris \$7,395 Caden K. White \$318,	344
	983
Jaelin Monae Hicks \$40,000 Eriana Taniyah White \$291,	331
Marcus Hill \$36,560 Carlos Williams \$36,	560
Kamiya Hooker \$7,395 Kaiden Williams \$20,	895
Jazz House \$36,560 DenaJah Ayona Wilson \$79,	955
Izaiah Huggans \$39,860 Jamisha Wilson \$361,	323
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