

# HARRIS-STOWE

## STATE UNIVERSITY

*Saint Louis, Missouri*



# COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

*Saturday, the Eleventh of December  
Two Thousand - Twenty-One*

*at*

*Ten O'clock in the Morning*

*Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building*

*Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack Auditorium*





# HARRIS-STOWE



# STATE UNIVERSITY

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the entire Harris-Stowe State University family, I extend sincere congratulations on your graduation. This is truly a monumental milestone in your life, and I know your family and friends are so proud to be celebrating this accomplishment with you.

We, the entire HSSU community, are overwhelmingly proud of the Class of 2021 and are honored to share this day with you and witness the joy of your accomplishment. I hope your time here has been transformative and given you the proper foundation to build successful futures.

This significant milestone is one of which you should be proud of as well. And, as you celebrate, be sure to share your success with your fellow students, family, and friends who have supported your pursuit of academic excellence. Your degree represents years of sacrifices and a deep commitment to achieving your goal. You have overcome tremendous obstacles in your educational journey, and your story will serve as a beacon of light and hope to all.

You now join our distinguished class of alumni and will carry on the HSSU legacy. As alumni, you join an elite group with shared experiences and connections to the past, present, and future. Remember that you will always be a part of this great family and that together, we will continue to show the world what it means to be a Harris-Stowe graduate. Always be a champion for Harris-Stowe and represent your alma mater with pride and dignity.

Again, it is an honor to congratulate you on this milestone. I wish you the very best and I am very proud of you. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

  
Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith  
Interim President

# **PROGRAM**

## **ACADEMIC PROCESSION**

**Edward Hill, Jr., Ed.D., Grand Marshal**  
*Interim Provost, Vice President of Academic Affairs*

**Alexander Edward Yentumi**  
*Mace Carrier and Fall 2021 Valedictorian*

*"Pomp and Circumstance"*  
*Composed by Sir Edward Elgar*  
*Performed by the Jazz Edge Orchestra*

## **PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

***St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department***

## **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**The Star-Spangled Banner**  
*by Francis Scott Key*  
*Led by Detective John W. Leggette*

## **INVOCATION**

**Pastor Anthony L. Riley**  
*Central Baptist Church*  
*Saint Louis, Missouri*

## **WELCOME AND REMARKS**

**LaTonia Collins Smith, Ed.D.**  
*Interim President, Harris-Stowe State University*

## **GREETINGS**

**Michael P. McMillan**  
*Chairman, Harris-Stowe State University*  
*Board of Regents*

## **VALEDICTORY**

**Alexander Edward Yentumi**  
*Fall 2021 Valedictorian*  
*Mathematics and Secondary Education*

## **INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**

**Edward Hill, Jr., Ed.D.**  
*Interim Provost, Vice President of Academic Affairs*

## **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

**Terri J. Vaughn**  
*Actor, Producer, Director*

## **CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREE DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS (honoris causa)**

**Chairman Michael P. McMillan and  
Interim President LaTonia Collins Smith**

**The Honorable Betty L. Thompson**  
*Former State Representative and Civil Rights Leader*



**PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR  
BACHELOR’S DEGREES**

**Edward Hill, Jr., Ed.D.**  
*Interim Provost, Vice President of Academic  
Affairs*

*Accounting, Business Administration, Finance,  
Health Care Management, Information Sciences  
and Computer Technology, and Marketing*

**Stacy Gee Hollins, Ph.D.**  
*Dean, Anheuser-Busch School of Business*

*Biology, Communication Studies, Criminal Justice,  
General Studies, History, Mathematics, Political Science,  
Psychology, Sociology, Sustainability and  
Urban Ecology, and Urban Affairs*

**Terry Dailly Davis, Ph.D.**  
*Dean, College of Arts and Sciences*

*Early Childhood, Elementary Education,  
Middle School Education, Secondary Education  
and Educational Studies*

**Edward Hill, Jr., Ed.D.**  
*Interim Provost, Vice President of Academic  
Affairs*

**CONFERRAL OF ACADEMIC DEGREES**

**Interim President LaTonia Collins Smith**  
*Interim President, Harris-Stowe  
State University*

**ALUMNI OATH**

**Shirley A. Brown**  
*President, Harris-Stowe State University  
Alumni Association*

**ALMA MATER ANTHEM**

*“We Sing of Harris-Stowe”  
Composed by Julius K. Hunter  
Led by Angela Sutherland ‘15*

**BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Anthony L. Riley**  
*Central Baptist Church  
Saint Louis, Missouri*

**RECESSIONAL**

*“Triumphal March”  
Arranged by James D. Ployhar  
Performed by the Jazz Edge Orchestra*

*The audience is requested to stand during the Processional, Presentation of Colors,  
National Anthem, Invocation, Alma Mater, and Benediction.*

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

## Terri J. Vaughn

*Actor, Producer, Director*

As an actress, Terri J. Vaughn first stole America's heart with her comical portrayal of the lovable Lovita Alizay Jenkins on *The Steve Harvey Show*. After six successful seasons, she went on to star in Will Smith's executive produced comedy *All of Us*, Showtime's hit drama *Soul Food*, and Tyler Perry's *Meet The Browns*. Terri has also starred on Oprah Winfrey's hit series *Greenleaf* and made guest appearances on FOX's series *Rel* and BET's *First Wives Club*. Her poignant recurring role as Rose Cranberry on HBO's *Insecure*, was developed into a scripted award-winning podcast series for Tenderfoot TV, *Looking For LaToya*. Having done so well with podcast enthusiast and winning a Webby Award, you'll find Terri back as Rose Cranberry for *We Stay Looking Anywhere* podcasts are heard. Terri can also be seen as one of the lead characters on Season 2 of Ava DuVernay's series, *Cherish The Day*. Terri has starred in several films, including *Daddy's Little Girls* and has been honored with three NAACP Image Awards for her work on *The Steve Harvey Show*.



As a director, Terri's latest projects include the first comedic episode of BET's *TALES*, the independently produced kid's comedy, *Merry Switchmas*, as well as Viacom's and Reuben Cannon Entertainment's *Soul Santa*. Last year Viacom and MarVista Entertainment released her comedy classic, *A Christmas Surprise*, starring Wendy Raquel Robinson and Keesha Sharp. Terri's directing debut, which she also produced, was the hilarious 'Fridayisque' independent comedy *#DigitalLivesMatter*, starring social media comedic influencers, DC Young Fly, Emmanuel Hudson and B.Simone, currently streaming on all platforms. Terri has directed several other Viacom movies, including the romantic comedy *Angrily Ever After*, the fun family classic *'Twas The Chaos Before Christmas*, starring Sherri Shepherd and Cynthia McWilliams and the hilarious female buddy flick, *Christmas Belles*, starring Raven Goodwin, Dominique Perry, Janet Hubert and the legendary John Amos.

As a producer, Terri has produced over 16 projects under her independent production company, Nina Holiday Entertainment, with her producing partner Cas Sigers-Beedles, including the family film, *Hamlet & Hutch*, starring legendary actor Burt Reynolds. Terri also produced and starred in the highly acclaimed *Girlfriends' Getaway* and its sequel, *Girlfriends Getaway 2*, as well as the romance drama *Open*, starring Keith Robinson, Essence Atkins and Matt Cedeno, for Viacom. Terri is a trailblazer in front of and behind the camera.

Out of her desire to give back to her community, Terri founded Take Wings Foundation (1997), in the San Francisco Bay Area to mentor young women growing up in at risk communities. Terri's passion is to uplift and motivate young women to believe in themselves.

# ***HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS,(D.H.I.) HONORIS CAUSA***

## **The Honorable Betty L. Thompson**

***Former State Representative and Community Activist***

The Honorable Betty L. Thompson was a Former State Representative and community activist who served her community with a seemingly boundless passion for more than 40 years.

Born in a small Mississippi town, as one of 13 children, Mrs. Thompson was a trailblazer.

She was still a baby when the family moved to St. Louis, and they became one of the first families to move into the new Carr Square Village public housing complex. The family later moved to the newer Pruitt-Igoe development, where, she said, "life was good."



After graduating from Sumner High School, she attended Harris-Stowe State University and Washington University in St. Louis, earning certificates in business and management.

She once heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak at a local church, and she was moved to join the protests to demand jobs for Black people at places like Jefferson Bank. She marched for fair housing beyond public housing and led rent strikes.

In 1964, she began working at the Human Development Corporation (HDC). This government-funded program distributed cheese and other government commodities and helped residents pay their housing bills and find jobs.

In 1980, Mrs. Thompson became the first African-American female elected to University City's City Council. She served for 18 years until winning a special election to become a state representative for Missouri's 72nd Congressional District, covering University City, Wellston, and Pagedale in 1997. Mrs. Thompson was also the first African American president of Women in Municipal Government, the first African American to serve on the cabinet of St. Louis County Executive Buzz Westfall, and the first Democrat to be elected by the Republican Majority as Vice-chair of the Ethics Commission. She also served as the Democratic Majority Whip during her Missouri House tenure.

In addition to 26 years at HDC and a political career, Thompson worked for the St. Louis County government and hosted a public service program on KATZ for 25 years. She and her husband owned K&M Delivery Service.

Mrs. Thompson served on numerous boards and committees and received many awards for her community involvement, including Throughout her career, Betty Thompson won many awards, including the M.L. King Spirit Award from the University City School Board and City Council, and the Gwen Giles Award.

Mrs. Thompson, who passed in July 2021, leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Jack Thompson; children, Anthony Thompson, Sonja M. Thompson-Branscom, Kwame Thompson; and seven grandchildren.

# CANDIDATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

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## ANHEUSER BUSCH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**Cabrina Aaron**

*Accounting, December 2021*

**Kenwan Jamaal Brown**

*Business Administration, December 2021*

**Briannah Ashton Cardenas**

*Health Care Management, August 2021*

**William F. Crooker**

*Business Administration, December 2021*

**Justin Tyler Donovan**

*Business Administration, December 2021*

**Fallon Marche Dupard**

*Accounting, August 2021*

**Jamez O. Ewing**

*Accounting, December 2021*

**Donovan Alexander Forrest**

*Information Sciences and Computer Technology,  
December 2021*

**Tavon K. Gibbs †**

*Information Sciences and Computer Technology,  
August 2021*

**Jules Gikundiro**

*Health Care Management, December 2021*

**Willie Samuel Halliburton, III**

*Accounting, December 2021*

**Rico Haney, Jr. †††**

*Information Sciences and Computer Technology,  
December 2021*

**Jsia Jackson Hayes**

*Business Administration, December 2021*

**Caleb Hill ††**

*Accounting, December 2021*

**Austin Katen †**

*Information Sciences and Computer Technology,  
December 2021*

**Khalah Kennebrew**

*Health Care Management, August 2021*

**Christopher LeSure**

*Business Administration, August 2021*

**Jessica N. Liddell ††**

*Health Care Management, December 2021*

**Zemondre L. McKinzie**

*Information Sciences and Computer Technology,  
December 2021*

**Taylor Ann Miller †**

*Marketing, December 2021*

**Makhyla Mingo**

*Accounting, August 2021*

**Tiffani Marne Nelson**

*Information Sciences and Computer Technology,  
December 2021*

**Elizabeth Denise Parker †**

*Accounting, August 2021*

**Sheena Elizabeth Akia Patterson ††**

*Business Administration, December 2021*

**Lizette Popoca**

*Accounting, December 2021*

**LaDajia Prince**

*Business Administration, December 2021*

**Jay Ross**

*Accounting, December 2021*

**Geuel Ammishaddai Giddalti Serbonij**

*Information Sciences and Computer Technology,  
December 2021*

**Jaymiee Sheppard-Johnson †**

*Health Care Management, December 2021*

**Rickey Dominic Smith ††**

*Business Administration, December 2021*



# **CANDIDATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES**

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## **ANHEUSER BUSCH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

***Sharita L. Smith ††***

*Health Care Management, December 2021*

***Deanna Jelita Tidwell***

*Information Sciences and Computer Technology,  
December 2021*

***Ethan Walton Wallace***

*Business Administration, December 2021*

***Autumn Aural Warmack-Streeter***

*Health Care Management, December 2021*

# CANDIDATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

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## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Maha Abdulrazzak †††**  
*Biology, December 2021*

**Tawhidullah Amini †††**  
*Biology, December 2021*

**Uniya Monique Arnold †**  
*Communication Studies, December 2021*

**Dominic Simon Bell †**  
*Political Science, December 2021*

**Monica Rene Bostic**  
*General Studies, December 2021*

**Brandie Leena Bryant**  
*Political Science, December 2021*

**Kai Weeden Carlock †**  
*Biology, December 2021*

**Chaya Mariana Cary**  
*Biology, August 2021*

**Gabrielle Christian**  
*Sociology, August 2021*

**Rosalee Connet**  
*Biology, December 2021*

**DaNisha Nicole Cushshon †**  
*Biology, December 2021*

**Anaejal Andreana Davies**  
*General Studies, December 2021*

**Kyaira Anece Dickerson**  
*Sociology, December 2021*

**Skylar Toyvon Doby**  
*Criminal Justice, December 2021*

**John H. Dozier**  
*General Studies, August 2021*

**Tekahla Flint †††**  
*Biology, December 2021*

**Nicole Garrido ††**  
*Biology, December 2021*

**Bennie LaMont Gilliam-Williams**  
*General Studies, August 2021*

**Gabriel E. Green †††**  
*Biology, August 2021*

**Yonas Lazareth Habtemariam ††**  
*General Studies, December 2021*

**Ada Harris**  
*Criminal Justice, August 2021*

**Kimberly Chari Harris**  
*General Studies, August 2021*

**Nephtali Hibart**  
*Criminal Justice, December 2021*

**Antonio A. Holland**  
*General Studies, December 2021*

**Alexis Ray James**  
*Criminal Justice, August 2021*

**Destiny Samone Johnson †††**  
*Sociology, December 2021*

**Devin Donnell Johnson**  
*Mathematics, August 2021*

**Jaida Monae Johnson**  
*Criminal Justice, December 2021*

**Anjanice Jones †**  
*General Studies, December 2021*

**Muamer Kladnjakovic**  
*Biology, August 2021*

**Jonathan C. Lavalley**  
*Biology, December 2021*

**Deontae Darrell Lewis †**  
*Criminal Justice, December 2021*

**Lorena Lopez**  
*Psychology, December 2021*

**Laronda Marie Louis**  
*Sociology, December 2021*



# CANDIDATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

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## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Amber R. Love**

*General Studies, December 2021*

**Lacey McCray**

*Biology, December 2021*

**Camryn Amari Merriweather ††**

*General Studies, December 2021*

**Teyrra Mone Nesbitt**

*Biology, December 2021*

**Darielle Latrese Odom**

*Communication Studies, December 2021*

**Jaquay R. Owens**

*Communication Studies, December 2021*

**Alexandria Alexis Payne**

*Biology, December 2021*

**Elizabeth Vashone Perkins**

*General Studies, December 2021*

**Chiquita Marie Perry**

*Criminal Justice, December 2021*

**Jerri Denise Poston †**

*Biology, August 2021*

**Emanuel Burnell Primer, Jr.**

*Psychology, December 2021*

**Sydney Dominique Rhodes**

*Psychology, December 2021*

**Chryshel Chantae Ross**

*Sociology, December 2021*

**Oliver L. Ross, Jr.**

*Biology, December 2021*

**Erica Sattiewhite ††**

*General Studies, December 2021*

**Kelly Renee Schoenbauer**

*Criminal Justice, December 2021*

**Teacora Breon-Jenae Sims †**

*Biology, December 2021*

**Malik Australia DeVonte Singleton**

*Communication Studies, December 2021*

**Lauren Smith**

*Sociology, August 2021*

**David Jahson Spell**

*Criminal Justice, August 2021*

**Kayla Washington †**

*Biology, December 2021*

**Vanita Washington †**

*Sociology, December 2021*

**Diamond Danielle Watson †††**

*Urban Affairs, December 2021*

**Shenelle Renee Whitsell**

*Biology, December 2021*

**Alexander Yentumi †††**

*Mathematics, December 2021*

# **CANDIDATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES**

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## **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**Whitney Catrina Agee**  
*Secondary Education, December 2021*

**Alexis Jannai Brown ††**  
*Early Childhood Education, December 2021*

**Mercedes Porche Brown †††**  
*Educational Studies, December 2021*

**Tiffany Brownlee †††**  
*Educational Studies, December 2021*

**Shauntae Evelyn Conner**  
*Educational Studies, August 2021*

**ShaNeka Finger †**  
*Educational Studies, December 2021*

**AlMesha Grimes**  
*Educational Studies, August 2021*

**Ameera Hamdallah**  
*Educational Studies, December 2021*

**Pamela Yvette Keys ††**  
*Early Childhood Education, December 2021*

**Trinese Janay Lawhorn ††**  
*Early Childhood Education, December 2021*

**Ronald Nash ††**  
*Educational Studies, December 2021*

**Rashae Petty**  
*Educational Studies, December 2021*

**Ebony Denise Sanders †**  
*Educational Studies, May 2021*

**Danielle N. Smith †††**  
*Early Childhood Education, December 2021*

**Tiffany Thompson ††**  
*Early Childhood Education, December 2021*

**LaKeisha Nicole Woodfork †††**  
*Early Childhood Education, December 2021*

**Alexander Yentumi †††**  
*Secondary Education, December 2021*

## ACADEMIC REGALIA

On formal occasions such as commencement convocations, faculty members and heads of academic institutions appear in attire which can be traced back to the Middle Ages when a person's degree symbolized his or her occupation. This attire usually consisted of three components: the gown, the hood, and the cap. The cap now is generally a flat, four-cornered covering called a "mortarboard" or a multi-cornered tam (tam- o'shanter).

Today, in academic environments, the gown most clearly differentiates holders of the three historic levels of academic degrees: the doctor's, the master's, and the bachelor's. The gown of the doctor is faced with velvet and has bell-shaped sleeves on each of which are three velvet rings. Usually, both the velvet facing and the velvet rings on the sleeves are of the color that traditionally represents the field of study in which the wearer's degree was earned. Examples of these colors and the academic fields they represent are the following: white, representing arts, letters, or the humanities; light blue, representing education; brown, representing the fine arts; lemon, representing library science; pink, representing music; dark blue, representing philosophy; sage green, representing physical education; and golden yellow, representing the sciences. The gown of the master's degree holder has either sleeves which reach nearly to the wrists and are slit above the elbows (the new style), or sleeves which are half-sleeves that expose the arms (the old style). Black is the usual color of all academic gowns; however, some are in one of the colors of the institution which has conferred or is conferring the degree.

The hood, formerly a second head-covering worn in medieval times to ward off the cold, now falls back over the shoulders and lies in folds over the gown on the wearer's back. It is usually black and has a broad edging which represents the field of study in which the wearer's degree was earned. The lining of the hood is usually silk and displays both colors of the degree-granting institution -- one is the background and the other is a v-shaped band.

The mortarboard, quite frequently a velvet tam, is usually black with a tassel. The tassel varies in color: gold, generally worn only by doctors and heads of institutions; black, for the master's degree; and the varied colors for the baccalaureate, according to the field of study in which the degree was earned.

Graduation honors are indicated by cords of varied colors: red, to indicate that the wearer is graduating with the highest honors (summa cum laude); gold, to indicate graduation with great honor (magna cum laude); and pastel blue, to indicate graduation with honor (cum laude). These cords are worn around the graduating senior's neck and hang down the front of his or her gown.

Membership in the various honor societies is indicated by either an honor cord or an honor stole. Alpha Chi members are wearing white satin honor stoles; Kappa Delta Pi members are wearing honor cords in rich violet and green; Sigma Tau Delta members are wearing honor cords in red and black; and Kappa Mu Epsilon members are wearing honor cords in silver and rose.

## CEREMONIAL MACE

The Mace is a symbol of the dignity and authority of a university. Before assuming this ceremonial function, the Mace was a weapon carried in battle by medieval knights and warlike bishops and was later carried as protection for royalty. The Mace bearer is appointed by the University President and precedes him in all official processions.

The Harris-Stowe State University Mace is constructed of a 48-inch walnut staff and a head detail that includes a four-inch gold-plated bronze portrait of the University's seal on the front and rear sides, surrounded by a gold-plated wreath. The center band boasts four gold plated, permanently mounted bronze medals, representing the disciplines currently taught at the University, and four fleur-de-lis. There are 18 gold-plated bronze rings placed around the staff of the Mace. Each gold band is engraved with the name and years of tenure of the University President. The Harris-Stowe State University Mace was designed by the Institution's Executive Vice President Emeritus, Dr. George Hudson Hynam (1920-2009).



**University Alma Mater**  
**WE SING OF HARRIS-STOWE**  
Julius K. Hunter  
S. William Aitken

*Ev'ry where I go, I sing of Harris-Stowe.*  
*I love my alma mater dear with praise increasing year by year.*  
*May ev'ry one here know my love of Harris-Stowe.*  
*I owe her all my loyalty, respect reserved for royalty.*  
*Observe the outward glow inspired by Harris-Stowe.*

*Whither winds may blow, I'll stand by Harris-Stowe.*  
*Her honor I will e'er defend with strength that cannot ever bend.*  
*On guard now, ev'ry foe of dear old Harris-Stowe.*  
*We know our true identity, upon the hallowed entity.*  
*So let the praises flow for dear old Harris-Stowe.*

**Chorus**

*Harris-Stowe, Harris-Stowe, sons and daughters we!*  
*Harris-Stowe, Harris-Stowe, all our praise to thee!*

**HARRIS-STOWE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY





# HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY

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## *The Board of Regents*

Michael P. McMillan, B.A., Chairman  
Deborah L. Price, J.D., Vice Chair  
Vanessa F. Cooksey, M.B.A., Vice Chair  
Christine A. Chadwick, B.A., Member  
Debra A. Hollingsworth, M.A., Member  
Ronald A. Norwood, J.D., Member

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LaTonia Collins Smith, Ed.D.  
*Interim President*

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## *President's Executive Cabinet*

Edward Hill, Jr., Ed.D.  
*Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs*

Shawn Baker, Ed.D.  
*Vice President and Dean of Student Success*

Terence Finley, Ph.D.  
*Vice President and Chief Financial Officer*

Manicia Finch, Ed.D.  
*Dean, Enrollment Management*

Jeffery Shaw, B.A.  
*Vice President, Institutional Advancement*

Alandrea P. Stewart, Ed.D.  
*Interim Vice President, Communications & Marketing*

Freddie Wills, Jr., Ph.D.  
*Vice President of STEM Initiatives and Research Partnerships*

James Fogt, M.S.  
*Chief Innovation Officer*

Tahir Younas, B.S.  
*Interim Chief Information Officer*

Romney Edwards, MPPA  
*Director of Human Resources and Title IX Coordinator*

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## *Commencement Convocation Marshals*

Edward Hill, Jr., Ed.D.  
*Grand Marshal*

Robert Kamkwalala, Ph.D.  
*Honorary Marshal*

Odesa Weatherford-Jacobs, Ph.D.  
*Honorary Marshal*

Victoria A. Harris, M.A.    Sean M. Spinks, M.P.A.  
*Junior Marshals*