



# COMMENCEMENT

*School of Professional and Continuing Studies*

*May 7, 2022*





Dear Graduates:

Congratulations on earning your degree from the University of Richmond! You have succeeded through your hard work and eagerness to learn and excel, and you have done so during an unusually difficult time for our University community and the world. In a global pandemic that inhibited many of our normal ways of interacting, learning, and socializing, you persevered with your studies, and you worked with the rest of our community to keep everyone safe. For that, as well as your academic accomplishments, you have my deep appreciation.

While you celebrate, please take a moment — more than a moment — to think about all the people who have helped you along the way, including staff, faculty, family members, and friends. Reach out to thank them for their support. Few of us can get far in our lives without a community to encourage, challenge, and advise us, and I hope you will continue not only to nurture those relationships but also to offer your support to others.

I hope that your time here has challenged you intellectually, broadened your perspective, and sparked a desire for lifelong learning. I also hope you have made lasting friendships and developed the skills of caring for your own health and well-being. Many of you have balanced the demands of academic work with those of jobs and families, and we admire your pursuit of education while fulfilling other important responsibilities as well.

On behalf of the entire University of Richmond community — congratulations again, and best wishes for the years ahead. We look forward to following your accomplishments as leaders in your careers and communities.

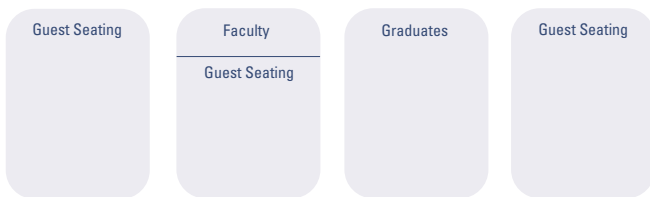
Please keep in touch, return often, and continue to take care of yourself and look out for each other.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin F. Hallock".

Kevin F. Hallock  
President

## Stage



### Seating Areas

Degree recipients of the prior December are placed within their respective degree groups.

### Order of Recognition

Students are recognized in the order shown in this program.

### Photography and Videography

For safety precautions, family members and guests will not be permitted to approach the graduate-seating and stage areas during the ceremony to take pictures. GradImages, a University vendor, will take a photo of each graduate receiving his or her diploma and again once off stage.

Note: Only authorized press and University photographers are permitted on the arena floor during the ceremony.

Videos and photographs taken during Commencement will be used in University publications and on the website. If you do not wish to be included in videos or photographs, please alert the photographer and/or videographer.

# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PRESIDING

**Dr. Kevin F. Hallock**  
*President, University of Richmond*

Processional March and National Anthem

Invocation..... The Reverend Dr. Craig Kocher  
*University Chaplain and Jessie Ball duPont  
Chair of the Chaplaincy*

Welcome .....President Hallock

Introductory Remarks .....Dr. Jamelle S. Wilson  
*Dean, School of Professional and Continuing Studies*

Student Commencement Speaker ..... Kelly J. Lawler, GC'21

Presentation of Awards..... Dr. Jeffrey W. Legro  
*Executive Vice President & Provost*  
Annette Ardler, C'01  
*President, SPCS Alumni Association*

2022 Itzkowitz Family Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Award.....Linda Fisher Thornton, M.Ed.  
*Adjunct Associate Professor,  
Human Resource Management*

2022 Gibb Family Distinguished Alumni Award.....Duan Hobbs, C'13

Presentation of Diplomas ..... Dean Wilson

Conferring of Degrees ..... President Hallock

Benediction .....Dr. Kocher



## *Other Participants on the Dais*

Dr. Thomas J. Shields, *Assistant Professor of Education,  
Associate Dean of Academic & Student Affairs*..... University Marshal  
James Daniel Thigpen, C'22 ..... Mace Bearer  
Brittany Ying Woo, GC'22..... United States Flag Bearer  
Tonya Ellis Woodson, GC'22 ..... University of Richmond Flag Bearer  
Ariyan Bakhti-Suroosh, C'22.....SPCS Banner Bearer  
Dr. Daniel L. Hocutt, R'92, G'98, *SPCS Web Manager, Adjunct Professor, Liberal Arts*..... Reader  
Kristen A. Ball, *University Registrar* ..... Assisting with Diplomas  
Gretchen Flynn Morris, *Director, Strategic Management for Academic & Student Affairs*..... SPCS Marshal

Please join us following commencement for a reception in the Robins Stadium  
hosted by the School of Professional and Continuing Studies.

*\* Mace, Flag, Banner bearers, and other students participating in the program are graduating students with the highest grade point averages. In the event of a tie, selection is made by committee.*

# *Students in Completion of Award Requirements*

## CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED STUDIES

### Graduates — August 18, 2021, and December 29, 2021

+ Berkley L. Collins III.....	North Chesterfield, Va.
Emma Colleen Knestaut.....	Hanover, Va.
Rungrat Saetang.....	Richmond, Va.
+ Erin Lynne Stuhlman.....	Richmond, Va.
Chelsea Lauren Zinski.....	Midlothian, Va.

### Candidates — May 7, 2022

Antonio Michael Balducci .....	Hanover, Va.
Jessica Diaz.....	Dalton, Ga.
• Whitney Nicole Evans .....	Portsmouth, Ohio
Janice Elaine Garland.....	Dunnsville, Va.
• Avery Elizabeth Harrington.....	Virginia Beach, Va.
Gloria Lynne McMichael.....	Glen Allen, Va.
William Cole Mohler .....	Mount Solon, Va.
• Lacey Neale Nance .....	Callao, Va.
Michael William Olex.....	Ashland, Va.
• Lindsay Alma Paiz.....	Venice, Fla.
• Chyna Ronaé Parham-Bland .....	Petersburg, Va.
• Nat Quick .....	Richmond, Va.
• Whitley Leonarda Whittaker.....	Henrico, Va.
• Sherri Lynn Woolf.....	Winchester, Va.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY

### Graduates — December 29, 2021

+ Justin Xavier Bartlett.....	Henrico, Va.
+ Anne Randolph Bryant.....	Winchester, Va.
+ Eric W. Byers .....	Mechanicsville, Va.
+ Lakishia H. Connor .....	Midlothian, Va.
+ Kara Kasarda.....	Midlothian, Va.
+ Kelly J. Lawler .....	Midlothian, Va.
+ Kerry Marie Loucks .....	Midlothian, Va.
+ Daniel Graham McKinney.....	Henrico, Va.
+ Matthew James Murray .....	Rockville, Md.

**Candidates — May 7, 2022**

Cynthia Wyatt Brown ..... Richmond, Va.  
Jason Roberts ..... Mechanicsville, Va.  
Katelyn Moneyhan Wilkerson ..... Rockville, Va.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE  
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Graduates — August 18, 2021**

Kathryn Elizabeth Desmond ..... Midlothian, Va.  
Crystal S. Frankart ..... Midlothian, Va.  
Grace de la Cruz Ipsan ..... Annandale, Va.

**Candidates — May 7, 2022**

Nicole Elaine Concannon ..... Oyster Bay, N.Y.  
Shane Christopher Gipson ..... Stickney, Ill.  
Jackson Albert Petersen ..... Libertyville, Ill.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE — NONPROFIT STUDIES**

**Graduate — December 29, 2021**

+Jody Marie Green ..... Culpeper, Va.

**Candidates — May 7, 2022**

Jesse Joon Young Heikkinen ..... Holt, Mich.  
Sullivan Sanfred Kulju ..... New Berlin, Wis.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE  
TEACHER LICENSURE PREPARATION**

**Graduates — December 29, 2021**

+Anna Lanier Nott ..... Richmond, Va.  
+Karle Renae Wells ..... Richmond, Va.

**Candidate — May 7, 2022**

•Veronique Zara ..... Richmond, Va.

## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS

### Graduates — August 18, 2021, and December 29, 2021

Natasha N. Alston .....	Richmond, Va.
+ Lucas Emmett Ecker, <i>summa cum laude</i> .....	Ashville, N.Y.
+ Veronica Theresa Williams Lewter .....	Chesterfield, Va.

### Candidates — May 7, 2022

• Paige Salone Smith .....	Belleville, Ill.
James Daniel Thigpen, <i>summa cum laude</i> .....	Decatur, Ga.
• Alex Ndubuisi Uzowulu .....	Obosi, Nigeria

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

### Graduates — August 18, 2021, and December 29, 2021

+ Salvatore A. Biundo, <i>magna cum laude</i> .....	Midlothian, Va.
Emily Brooke Brown, <i>magna cum laude</i> .....	Colorado Springs, Colo.
Kristina Chergarova, <i>magna cum laude</i> .....	Richmond, Va.
Abigail Cathleen Clark, <i>magna cum laude</i> .....	Richmond, Va.
Almedina Delic, <i>magna cum laude</i> .....	Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina
Ani Jemma Gyurjyan, <i>summa cum laude</i> .....	Richmond, Va.
Nakej'a K. Smith, <i>cum laude</i> .....	Richmond, Va.

### Candidates — May 7, 2022

Lakeisha Deshanna Austin .....	Richmond, Va.
• Ariyan Bakhti-Suroosh .....	Denver, Colo.
Jessica Leigh Cano, <i>magna cum laude</i> .....	Richmond, Va.
• Shawn H. Davis .....	Richmond, Va.
Scott Alan Harris, <i>summa cum laude</i> .....	Richmond, Va.
Zarea D. Hawkins, <i>magna cum laude</i> .....	Richmond, Va.
• Tiffany Serenity Haynes .....	Kingston, Jamaica
• Annie Maude Koroma .....	Columbus, Ohio
Parker G. Middleton, <i>magna cum laude</i> .....	Chester, Va.
• Angela Faye Thomas Minor .....	Richmond, Va.
Angela Marie Powers, <i>cum laude</i> .....	Roanoke, Va.
• Amanda Raye Napoli .....	Goochland, Va.
• Kylee C. Shreve .....	Seattle, Wash.
• Jeffrey P. Smith Jr. ....	Mechanicsville, Va.

## MASTER OF EDUCATION

### Graduates — August 18, 2021, and December 29, 2021

Kara Hall Bleacher .....	Richmond, Va.
Aline Salgueiro Castanho Dolan .....	Vila Velha, Brazil
Anne-Margaret Haworth Evers .....	Chesterfield, Va.
Ryan Elizabeth Foulds .....	Sparta, N.J.



Allyson Maree VerLander Goyette.....	Mechanicsville, Va.
+Alana Wilson Hayes.....	Richmond, Va.
Kristen Marie Litchfield .....	Wake Forest, N.C.
Emily Marie O’Laughlin.....	Midlothian, Va.
+Emily Selbach Pierce.....	Richmond, Va.
Regine Christine Pittman.....	Chesterfield, Va.
April E. Smith .....	Richmond, Va.
+Jane Coye Swenson .....	Richmond, Va.
Melissa Amy Thurston.....	Richmond, Va.
+Trevon D. Tucker.....	Willingboro, N.J.
+Jennifer VanSteenburgh.....	Mechanicsville, Va.
Jessica Harley Yankey.....	Midlothian, Va.

**Candidates — May 7, 2022**

Victoria Marie Case .....	Richmond, Va.
•Tierra LaShae Humphries.....	Richmond, Va.
•Gabriella Kaszala.....	Glen Allen, Va.
•Charlotte S. Martin .....	Midlothian, Va.
•Anna Lanier Nott .....	Richmond, Va.
•Caroline Paige Schoeneweis.....	Midlothian, Va.
•Jeffrey Lane Varljen.....	Richmond, Va.

**MASTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Graduates — August 18, 2021, and December 29, 2021**

+Sarah Elizabeth Anderson.....	Richmond, Va.
Theresa Nakia Brevard.....	Newport News, Va.
+Katie Kristine Clerkin Smith .....	Glen Allen, Va.
Nolan Michael Collins.....	Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.
Emma Scott Duncan.....	Radford, Va.
Anjelica N. Esteves.....	Midlothian, Va.
+Enrique J. Gonzalez.....	Richmond, Va.
Laura Hauser Williams.....	King William, Va.
+Laura Kathleen Hutson .....	Montpelier, Va.
Darcil Lee .....	Queens, N.Y.
Taylor Susanne McClain.....	Richmond, Va.
+Lacey M. McCraw .....	Powhatan, Va.
Tracey S. Polivka.....	Mechanicsville, Va.
+Kristen Nicole Rasmussen .....	Richmond, Va.
+Ashley Edwards Reed .....	Richmond, Va.
Scott Michael Rheinheimer .....	Rochester, N.Y.
Matthew Albert Ritchie .....	Chesterfield, Va.
Jamie Leigh Rucci.....	Powhatan, Va.
+Seyoum Salvatore Settepani.....	Harlem, N.Y.
+Aziza Earlina Sterling-Washington.....	Henrico, Va.
Lisa M. Stoldt.....	Glen Allen, Va.
+Tazle Alexander Sumpter .....	Richmond, Va.

- +Hannah J. Vitkus-Goo ..... Aurora, Ill.
- +Suzanne Huffine Winterrowd ..... Richmond, Va.
- Colby Gordon Wyatt..... Glendale, Ariz.
- Kelsey Yacobi ..... Mechanicsville, Va.

**Candidates — May 7, 2022**

- Timothy B. Adams ..... Chatham, N.J.
- Raymond John Baran II..... Berwyn, Pa.
- Latasha Bradley..... Chester, Va.
- Morgan Paige Bransky ..... Scotch Plains, N.J.
- Cassandra Monique Byrd..... Reston, Va.
- Timothy Lenier Coleman II ..... Stone Mountain, Ga.
- Kathryn Elizabeth Desmond .....Midlothian, Va.
- Zinewinde Lydie Dianda ..... Ouaga, Burkina Faso
- Tyler Ridge Dressler.....Covington, Va.
- Grant Gary Golden ..... Winchester, Va.
- Jeannette Joan Guidotti ..... Yardley, Pa.
- Leroy K. Henley Jr. .... Pompano Beach, Fla.
- Grace de la Cruz Ipsan ..... Annandale, Va.
- Lavinia Lindsay Johnson ..... Richmond, Va.
- Ryan Griffin Lanchbury..... Burlington, Ontario
- Nicholas Loffredo ..... Seneca, S.C.
- Robert Stanley Mason..... Chesterfield, Va.
- Darius Jermaine Reynolds ..... Yorktown, Va.
- Genesis Arismer Rodriguez ..... Richmond, Va.
- Maria Rose Scarpa..... Richmond, Va.
- Lindsey Jane Stagner .....Midlothian, Va.
- Jenna Adams Smith.....Charleston, W. Va.
- Dawnyel L. Towles.....Berkeley, Calif.
- Caleb Ugworji..... Chester , Va.
- John W. Waldrop ..... Amelia, Va.
- Brock Austin Weirather..... Polk City, Fla.
- Tonya Ellis Woodson ..... Baltimore, Md.

**MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS**

**Graduate — December 29, 2021**

- +Austin Douglas Benton ..... Mechanicsville, Va.

**Candidates — May 7, 2022**

- Winston John Allen ..... Randolph, N.J.
- Johnny S. Chadoyan..... Richmond, Va.
- Emily Victoria Dunbar .....Medina, Ohio
- Brooke Alexander Fazio ..... Basking Ridge, N.J.
- Jordan C. Gaitley .....Haverford, Pa.
- Eli Zachary Kimbell ..... New York, N.Y.

Mary Nelson.....	Richmond, Va.
Lucia Barela Ortiz.....	Las Cruces, N.M.
Erica Whitney Parker .....	Midlothian, Va.
• Ashton J. Smith.....	Virginia Beach, Va.
Brittney Renee Wright.....	Moorestown, N.J.
Danielle Marguerite Wyerman.....	McLean, Va.

## MASTER OF NONPROFIT STUDIES

### Graduates — August 18, 2021, and December 29, 2021

Edwin Rafael Boscana Jr.....	Richmond, Va.
+Katima Lorraine Farrow.....	Blacksburg, Va.
+Claire Dooley Galvin .....	Glen Allen, Va.
Megan Lily Gianforte.....	Brielle, N.J.
Taylor Lindsey Gilliam .....	Richmond, Va.
Susan G. Goodwin .....	Richmond, Va.
Brittany Nicole Jezouit.....	Richmond, Va.
Maura Elizabeth O'Brien.....	Washington, Ill.
+Susan Katherine Rhodes.....	Richmond, Va.
+Julia Lee Roller.....	Staunton, Va.
+Kindall A. Stevenson.....	Richmond, Va.
+Marco Shumonte Thomas .....	Richmond, Va.
+Wyatt James Ulrich .....	Indus, Minn.

### Candidates — May 7, 2022

• Laura Elizabeth Bacigalupo .....	Tampa, Fla.
Jack A. Buckley .....	Bronx, N.Y.
• Matthew John Dewald.....	Lahr/Schwarzwald, Germany
Emily Clare Janto.....	Richmond, Va.
Alison Susan Kent .....	Richmond, Va.
• Nathaniel Louis Mulberg.....	Cherry Hill, N.J.
Lisa B. Resch .....	Chester, Va.
• Olivia Kate Stickleby .....	Leesburg, Va.
Annie Bryden Weinberg.....	Richmond, Va.
Brittany Ying Woo.....	Richmond, Va.

## MASTER OF TEACHING

### Graduates — August 18, 2021, and December 29, 2021

+Elena Katherine Acevedo.....	Midlothian, Va.
+Haley Estelle Cuneo .....	Mechanicsville, Va.
+Rachel Chapin Hoops Earle .....	Richmond, Va.
+Meagan Leigh Justice .....	Richmond, Va.
+Emily Christine Rose .....	Richmond, Va.
Andrea Joline Vest.....	Henrico, Va.

**Candidates — May 7, 2022**

Hani Assadi .....	Henrico, Va.
• Jamie B. Brown .....	Midlothian, Va.
Sarah K. Burnley.....	Mechanicsville, Va.
Zachary Alexander Campanelli.....	Richmond, Va.
Desirée Dabney.....	Richmond, Va.
Quinn Marie DeBerry .....	Richmond, Va.
Cynthia Owen Farmer .....	Richmond, Va.
Allison C. Garrett .....	Richmond, Va.
Lindsay Elizabeth Heath.....	Richmond, Va.
Zettie Beatrice Henley .....	Glen Allen, Va.
Lindsay Widmoyer Hyltegard.....	Glen Allen, Va.
• Kimberly A. Lare .....	Dillwyn, Va.
Corinna M. Sherlip .....	Medelin, Colombia
Rachel Lindsey Shirey.....	Richmond, Va.
John Gerard Tivenan .....	Henrico, Va.
Victoria L. Wain.....	Charleston, S.C.

# Awards and Honors

## 2022 BOOK AWARD RECIPIENTS

Book Awards recognize academic success and dedication to the School of Professional and Continuing Studies and the University. They are presented to top students in each program, as chosen by the faculty.

### Curriculum and Instruction

*James W. Lanham Book Award for Excellence* ..... Emily Marie O’Laughlin

### Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

*Catherine S. Fisher Book Award for Excellence* ..... Eric W. Byers

### Human Resource Management

*Steve Neal Book Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement* ..... Scott Alan Harris

*Steve Neal Book Award for Outstanding Graduate Achievement* ..... Lindsey Jane Stagner

### Information Systems

*George E. Christopher and George W. Swartz Memorial Book Award* ..... Antonio Michael Balducci

### IT Management

*McDonald Davis Jr. Book Award* ..... Jessica Leigh Cano

### Liberal Arts

*Kuehl Book Award in Recognition of Excellence in the Bachelor of Liberal Arts Program* ..... Lucas Emmett Ecker

*Daniel McDonald Roberts and Frances Taylor Roberts Master of Liberal Arts Memorial Book Award* ..... Brittney Renee Wright

### Nonprofit Studies

*Louis J. Narduzzi Memorial Book Award* ..... Julie Lee Roller

### Paralegal Studies

*William R. Marshall Jr. Memorial Book Award* ..... Zarea D. Hawkins

### Teacher Licensure Program

*Samuel E. Perry Jr. and Nancy B. Perry Book Award (Grades K–6)* ..... Quinn Marie DeBerry

*Ann C. Taylor Book Award (Grades 7–12)* ..... John Gerard Tivenan

### **JEAN H. PROFFITT STUDENT SERVICE AWARD**

Established in 1996 by the School of Professional and Continuing Studies and the SPCS Student Government Association, this award is presented to a graduating student recognized by his/her peers for outstanding service to the School. The recipient of this award for 2022 is:

Grant Gary Golden

### **RICHARD W. LEATHERMAN SR. AND IDA MAY LEATHERMAN MACE BEARER AWARD**

Established in 2013, this award honors the memory of Richard W. Leatherman Sr. and Ida May Leatherman and is given to a graduating student in recognition of academic excellence. The award recipient is given the honor of carrying the University Mace and leading the graduates in the Commencement procession. Maces, symbols of leadership and ascendancy, have been used since the Middle Ages by governments, institutions, churches, and schools in special rites and ceremonies. The recipient of this award for 2022 is:

James Daniel Thigpen

### **COLONEL PORCHER L. TAYLOR JR. PH.D. BOOK AWARD FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

Established in 2006, this award honors Dr. Porcher L. Taylor Jr. and the servant leadership he has exemplified his entire life. Dr. Taylor, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., served in World War II, Vietnam, and the Korean Wars. Dr. Taylor also served as Vice President for Student Affairs at Virginia State University and has spent his entire life involving himself in civic, charitable, educational, and religious causes and serving as a role model for youth. This award is given to a graduating student who has provided leadership and involvement to their community. The recipient of this award for 2022 is:

Brooke Alexander Fazio

### **JOANITA BBAALE SENOGA BOOK AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE BY A STUDENT WHOSE NATIVE LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH**

Established in 2006, this award is given to the student with the highest undergraduate grade point average whose native language is not English. This award is named in honor of its first recipient, Joanita Bbaale Senoga. Ms. Senoga, a refugee from Uganda, overcame many hardships to earn her degree, including escaping persecution in her native land and then struggling to bring her family to the United States. Ms. Senoga worked three simultaneous part-time jobs and raised a family all while attending classes full time. The recipient of this award for 2022 is:

Hani Assadi

**TAYLOR KIE COUSINS AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF  
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

Established in 2010, this award is given to a graduating student who exemplifies outstanding service and leadership to the University community. This award is in memory of Adjunct Professor Emeritus Taylor Cousins' service and commitment to the School of Professional and Continuing Studies as a teacher and in recognition of his involvement in service to the community. The recipient of this award for 2022 is:

Marco Shumonte Thomas

**ACADEMIC HONORS**

General academic honors of three ranks are awarded to members of the graduating class on the basis of their cumulative grade point average on work completed in the School of Professional and Continuing Studies.

<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> .....	3.80–4.00
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i> .....	3.50–3.79
<i>Cum Laude</i> .....	3.20–3.49

**SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
STUDENT CHAPTER**

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) is the world's largest HR professional society, representing 285,000 members in more than 165 countries. SHRM triple honor cords are five feet in length, navy blue, light blue, and white. The cords are worn and knotted around the neck with tassels at each end, recognizing achievement in the field of human resources.

**STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS**

Study abroad sashes display the unique qualities and national colors of the study abroad student's host country's flag. An alternative item approved for study abroad students is a small flag (not to exceed the dimensions of three-by-five inches) representing the respective country in which the student studied, which is worn on the left shoulder of the gown.

**RICHMOND'S SPIDER FIRSTS**

First-generation students' cords are silver and rose, signifying they are among the first in their family to graduate with a bachelor's degree.

# *Biographies*

## STUDENT SPEAKER

**Colonel Kelly J. Lawler**, or known by his students as Mr. L, retired from the United States Army in March of 2018 after thirty years of service. His assignments included Chief of the Mission Support Branch in the Operations Directorate on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, where he provided recommendations to senior leaders on logistics. He also led and commanded a Brigade in the United States Army Europe and a Battalion in combat in the Third Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Georgia. Lawler's last two assignments were as a Deputy Commander in the United States Eighth Army, Korea, and also at the United States Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Virginia. Lawler has been awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Superior Service, United States Army Legion of Merit (two times), and the Bronze Star (three times). He was also awarded the Combat Action Badge (two times).

Lawler is married to the former Mary McGeehan of Hatboro, Pennsylvania. They have four children: Dr. Meghan Lawler (29), Jonathan Lawler (26), Grace Lawler (22), and Shannon Lawler (20). They have resided in Midlothian, Virginia, since 2016. Lawler was born in Monticello, New York, and was inducted into the Monticello Hall of Distinction in 2018. Both his father and mother are deceased but were lifelong educators. His sister, Jill Ann Lawler, is retired in Canandaigua, New York, after thirty plus years as a school music teacher.

Upon retirement in 2018 from the United States Army, Lawler embarked on an educational journey. Lawler had a reputation in the military as a "tough-but-fair" leader who genuinely cared about the soldiers he served. Lawler chose the field of education to continue his leadership service to our future leaders. Lawler's educational background began at West Chester University in Pennsylvania, where he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Additionally, at West Chester he was commissioned as a United States Army Second Lieutenant upon his graduation in 1987. He has earned a master's degree from Florida Institute of Technology. He is a graduate of the United States Army War College as a Fellow at the George C. Marshall Center for European Studies in Garmisch, Germany.

In 2018 Lawler pursued his mission as an educator and earned a Master of Arts in Education degree from William and Mary. Lawler has now earned his post-master's graduate certificate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Richmond School of Professional and Continuing Studies.

Lawler accepted a Social Studies teaching position in Chesterfield County Public Schools at Falling Creek Middle School in 2019 and continues serving there today.



## ITZKOWITZ FAMILY DISTINGUISHED ADJUNCT FACULTY AWARD

**Linda Fisher Thornton** holds an M.A. in Adult Education and Human Development from George Washington University and has been in the leadership development field for more than thirty years. Previously Senior Vice President and Chief Learning Officer for Central Fidelity Bank, she left after a merger to start her own consulting firm. She is currently CEO of Leading in Context LLC, working with Fortune 500 companies, universities, and organizations across industries to help leaders see the nuances of ethical responsibility clearly through multiple lenses to make ethical decisions.

Currently an adjunct associate professor, Thornton has taught numerous courses since joining the SPCS faculty, including Applied Ethics; Communication in Leadership; Leading Individuals; Leading Groups; Leadership, Conflict Management, and Group Dynamics; and Leadership in the Global Environment. She also proposed and taught a new course on Strategic Thinking for Leaders. While serving as Chair of the Adjunct Faculty Advisory Committee, she led the development of SPCS standards for Innovations in Teaching.

After developing leaders and teaching for many years, Thornton discovered a gap in clear values-based learning for leaders who wanted to do the right thing. To fill that need, she researched and created a clear multidimensional model of ethical leadership, published in her book *7 Lenses: Learning the Principles and Practices of Ethical Leadership*. *7 Lenses* is now in its third printing and used by businesses and universities in North America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania to teach ethical thinking and leadership.

Thornton values authentic conversations that help students take their thinking and world view to a higher level. She has guest lectured at notable universities and led workshops for the International Leadership Association and the Association for Talent Development. Her blog frequently appears on top leadership blog lists and her work is quoted in a wide variety of publications including *HR Professional*, *SmartBrief on Leadership*, *Government Executive*, and *The Globe and Mail*.

## GIBB FAMILY DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

**Duan Hobbs** grew up in the small rural town of Blackstone, Virginia, a stone's throw from the Ft. Pickett military base and approximately forty minutes southwest of Richmond. As a teen, he moved to Chesterfield County where he still resides.

Hobbs graduated from the University of Richmond School of Professional and Continuing Studies Weekend College program in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, later earning a Customer Experience (CX) certificate in 2020. He is the current past president of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies Alumni Association Board of Directors after serving as president, vice president, and on various committees in previous years.

Hobbs currently works for NiSource, where he began in 2015 and served as a major accounts manager for Columbia Gas of Virginia. He was recently promoted to the role of Manager of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. As a result, his family will be relocating to Columbus, Ohio, this summer. Prior to NiSource, Duan established a diverse background in various roles at well-known companies such as Verizon, Coca-Cola, and ADT.

Outside of work, Hobbs enjoys kayak fishing, golfing, and watching his son's travel soccer games. Duan is married to his wife Kesia, and has two children, Jaiden, a senior at Shenandoah University, and Kingston, a middle schooler.



