

commencement

2026

The seal of Chesapeake College is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with an open book and a tree. The shield is set against a background of a large, stylized leaf. The text "CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE" is written in a circular path around the top, and "WYE MILLS MARYLAND" around the bottom. The year "1965" is positioned at the very bottom of the seal.

Chesapeake College

Wednesday, the Twentieth of May,
Two Thousand Twenty-Six
Wye Mills, Maryland

*****PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE*****

***Academic Procession Marshal**

Linda F. Earls, B.A., M.A.
Associate Professor of English

***Processional**

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar
Isaiah Robinson
Chesapeake College Alumnus

Presentation of Colors

Easton Police Department Honor Guard

“The Star Spangled Banner”

Isaiah Robinson
Chesapeake College Alumnus

Greeting and Recognition of Guests

Introduction of Speaker

Clifford P. Coppersmith, Ph.D.
President, Chesapeake College

Presentation of Community Service Award

Clifford P. Coppersmith, Ph.D.

Address to Graduates

The Honorable Mrs. Keasha N. Haythe, CEcD
Foundation of HOPE, Inc. & Talbot County Council

Presentation of the 2026–28 Bounds

Distinguished Teaching Chair Award

Robert C. Thompson, Ph.D.
Director of Arts and Professor of Theatre

Remarks by the 2026–28 Bounds

Distinguished Teaching Chair Award

Jon Longest, M.A.Ed., NRP
EMS Program Director

Presentation of the John T. Harrison Award

Reza Jafari, Ed.S., MBA, Ph.D./abd
Chair, Board of Trustees

Remarks by John T. Harrison Award Winner

Zoe Markovic

Graduation of the Class of 2026

Presentation of Candidates

David Harper, Jr., Ph.D.
Vice President for Workforce and Academic Programs

Conferring of Degrees

Clifford P. Coppersmith, Ph.D.

Alumni Welcome

Frank Williams, B.S., M.S.
Advanced Manufacturing Program Coordinator

****Recessional**

“Celebration” by Kool & The Gang
Isaiah Robinson
Chesapeake College Alumnus

**Audience will remain standing.*

***Audience will remain standing until Academic Recession has retired.*

photos

Family and friends may take photos during the event, but are asked to be respectful of other guests. Please take photos from your seat to ensure others can see their graduates cross the stage.

Photos from today’s ceremony will be available for download at www.chesapeake.edu/gradphotos by June 8, 2026. Please visit the site to download your favorite photos.

platform party

community service award winner

Brenda Shorter, B.S.

Member – Kent County, Board of Trustees

Blenda Armistead, Ph.D.

Member – Talbot County, Board of Trustees

Mary Dennard-Turner

Member – Dorchester County, Board of Trustees

Addie Eckardt, M.A.

Member – Dorchester County, Board of Trustees

Brent Fuchs, B.S.

Member – Caroline County, Board of Trustees

Christopher Garvey, B.A.

Member – Queen Anne's County, Board of Trustees

Shelly Gross-Wade, B.S.

Vice-Chair – Queen Anne's County, Board of Trustees

Eric Cheezum

Member – Caroline County, Board of Trustees

Erica Osterhout, B.S.

Member – Kent County, Board of Trustees

Karen Smith, B.S., M.B.A.

Vice President for Administrative Services

Caroline Wood, Ed.D.

Vice President for Student Success & Enrollment Management

David Harper, Jr., Ph.D.

Vice President for Workforce and Academic Programs

Reza Jafari, Ed.S., MBA, Ph.D./abd

Chair – Talbot County, Board of Trustees

Zoe Markovic

2026 John T. Harrison Award Winner

Keasha N. Haythe, CEcD

Keynote Speaker

Linda Earls, B.A., M.A.

Academic Procession Marshal

Clifford P. Coppersmith, Ph.D.

President

KEASHA HAYTHE

Keynote Speaker

Keasha Haythe serves as President & CEO of the Foundation of HOPE, Inc., a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization established to help women and young girls. She is the founder of the organization and developed the Economic Development and Empowerment Program for adolescent girls attending middle school.



Ms. Haythe has been an Economic Development Professional for more than two decades serving as director for local government. Partnering with private and public stakeholders, she championed education, entrepreneurship and expansion of existing businesses as key economic drivers. Ms. Haythe spearheaded construction of a Technology Park and developed the Eastern Shore Innovation Center, the first business incubator on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. She has secured over \$100M in funding for government projects, business expansions and start-ups.

Ms. Haythe holds an Associate of Arts degree in Business Administration from Chesapeake College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Arizona State University. She is a member of many professional organizations. In her professional career she was appointed by Governor Hogan to serve a four-year term on the Maryland Marketing Partnership Board under the Maryland Department of Commerce, she also served as President of the Maryland Economic Development Association Board of Directors. October 2023, Governor Moore appointed her to serve on the Maryland Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors representing the Talbot County Council.

Ms. Haythe is an ordained minister and a member of Faith City Central in Brandywine, MD. She is married to Marcus L. Haythe Sr., and they have three adult children; Marcus Jr., (U.S. Army Veteran) Miniah and Isaiah.

Ms. Haythe was born and raised in Talbot County. She was elected in 2022 as the first African American female and is serving her first term as a member of the Talbot County Council.

john t. harrison award winner

certificate candidates

ZOE MARKOVIC

Zoe Markovic, 19, of Rock Hall, hopes to use her talents in math and science to make the world a better place.

A member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and a Dean's List student, Zoe has a 3.9 grade point average.



When her plans shifted from a career in the U.S. Navy, Zoe turned to Chesapeake College for her next steps.

"Throughout high school, I had planned to enlist in the Navy. I took Dual Enrollment courses at Chesapeake in my junior and senior years, and then my future plans changed," she said. "Chesapeake seemed like the perfect place for me to get started. Everyone here is supportive, the campus is peaceful, and I have been able to really focus on my goals."

Despite the self-focus, Zoe said she also stepped out of her comfort zone to work with other students.

Zoe is a member of the Skipjack Squad, giving campus tours and representing Chesapeake at community events. She also joined the Chesapeake College Astronomical Society.

"I've enjoyed meeting prospective students and learning about their goals. Students here are pursuing so many different paths and it's great that they can do it all right here," she said. "I've developed some new skills here on campus that will help me in the future."

In supporting her nomination for the Harrison Award, staff and faculty noted Zoe's attributes.

"Zoe is a remarkable person and she exemplifies what it means to be a top-notch student. She is kind, respectful, hardworking, and very intelligent. I have every confidence that Zoe will be successful in all she pursues in life," said Assistant Professor of Mathematics Sarah Sewell.

An aspiring engineer, Zoe will continue her studies at the University of Maryland- College Park. Her eventual goal is an engineering career in sustainability or a field that improves environmental impacts.

Layla Elizabeth Beebe-Cunningham *
Krista Renee Cain-Rideout
Tra-Veyah E. Cole-Daniels
Grant Day ❖
Sa'Vana A. Ennals
Alyssa Dianne Fretterd
Temerah Holloway *
Paul A. Kubik ❖ ♦
Tyler R. Lambert
Aja Alexis Manning ♦ ♡
Madison E. Moore
Madisyn Victoria Moore

Christina Alesse Morgan *
Jacob Robert Morris ❖
Denise Marie Ornduff
Isabella Marie Plugge
Simon Marshall Root
Zachary Thomas Smith
Brooklynn Michelle Spencer *
Jessica Lynn Todd
Amberly Lynn Totaro ❖
Amanda Jean Weaver
Kendal Somer Wills
Collin A. Woolford

degree candidates

Jennifer L. Adams
Allison Joyce Alexander
Stephen Philip Andres
Kimberly Argueta-Barrios ❖
Hazen S. Arnold, V
Rylie Jade Arnold
Hayden Samuel Cole Askew
Amara Azhar
Lourden Kennedy Banks
Madison Marisa Banks
Sadie Elizabeth Banning ΦΘΚ *
Kayleigh Nichole Barr
Daniel Sean Barrett
Kimberly Leslie Bartolon-Rodriguez
Chelsea Marie Bender ❖
Alissa Lynn Bennett ♦
Cristian Berduo-Ramirez
Sophia Grace Bevins ❖
Seth Michael Billman

Tara Lynn Binnall
Mariah Lasage Blackburn
Wendy Bougere
Wayne Dermont Brown, Jr. ❖
Kendall Brooke Buchholz
Lydia Sue Bumgarner
Jacob Andrew Burns
Chandra D. Cabarris
Gracie Lynn Calloway
Alexis MacKenzie Mansfield
Chloe Carpenter ΦΘΚ ♦
Haley Morgan Carroll
Mackenzie Lee Casamento
Nicole Marie Cayer Biscoe ❖
Lisbeth Maria Cedano Piliar ❖ ΦΘΚ
Anna May Cephas
Kent MacLeod Chandler
Isabelle M. Chapman
Jake Wyatt Christian
Bryan Scott Cichetti

degree candidates

Andrew Douglas Citrone
Tammy Renee Cohee
Rayce Stevenson Cole
Tra-Veyah E. Cole-Daniels
Tra-Vonyae Alize Cole-Daniels
Joseph C. Collins ♦
Heather Leigh Combs ❖
Rebecca Louise Compton ❖
Aaron James Connors
Ryan Matthew Cook ❖ ♦
Alexis Marie Cowgill ❖
Hunter Ryan Craig
Robert David Cress
Madison Nicole Crew
Robert Thomas Crews ΦΘΚ
Angela Laryssa Criss ❖
Sarah Virginia Crump
Harleigh Renee Cutchin
Kristen Hunter Davis
Andrew Steven Dawson ♦ *
Olivia Grace Dean
Robert James Distelcamp
Lindsay Anne Dobbert
Taylor R. Donaway
Aliyah Simone Dorsey
Tess Danielle Dyott
Edson Elionard
Evelyn L. Espejo
Tessa Wray Everngam
Chloe Grace Fields
Samuel Dan Florent
Ney-Lum N. Forti
Gabriella Marie Galante
Lexi Ciara Gale
Aireal Caitlyn Garbarino ♦
Glynis Paige Gardner
Isabella Blair Garland
Taylor Morgan Geib

Anna Gentile
Chelsea Jean George
Heather Nicole Gibby
Ryan Cole Gilpin
Cole Edward Glanding ❖
Rayna A. Graves ΦΘΚ ♦
Klaire E. Grimplin *
Norya Margarita Guerrero-Najarro
Sophie Grace Gunter ❖
Abigail Alana Gunther
William Allen Hagan
Kaleigh Danae Hammond
Jania Kaprie Handy
Iman Corinne Haque
Jordan A. Harding
Zachary Travis Herr
Katie Lynn Heverin
Rebecca Anne Higgins ♦
Katherine Alice Hills ❖ ΦΘΚ
Brandon T. Hooks ❖ ΦΘΚ
Jacob Wyatt Hoover
William J. Hubbard
Nyrayha Renee Hudson
Adrienne Elizabeth Hurst ⚕
Kathryn Sophia Jenkins
Anna Joyce Jennette ❖
Daqwan Lamar Johnson
Jersey A. Johnson
Kayleigh Taylor Johnson
Victoria Dawn Johnson ❖ ΦΘΚ
Nicholas Scott Jones
Willie Joseph Jones ❖
Brittney Renee Jump ❖ ΦΘΚ
Cassie Rebecca Karns
Julie Ann Katlic
Alexia Shay Kelley
Sydney Lee Keninitz
Audrey Lynn Kersey

Brennan James King ΦΘΚ
Grant Henry Kirby
Lukas Street Knauss
Jonathan Matthew Knox
Alexis Paige Koppleman ⚕
Sarah Frances Krocheski ❖ ΦΘΚ
Courtney Elizabeth Laclair ❖
Kionne Lemar Lang
Cameron Beth Larrimore
Kayla Rae Larrimore
Thomas Robert Leager, III
Alexis Marie Lednum
Britney Truc Lee
Jason Y. Lee
Loren Yewon Lee ❖
Tyler James Lev
Kaiya Christine Lewis ❖
Jamie S. Liston
Ronnie John Loeffler
Morgan Card Lofland
Jessica Marta Lopez
Nicholas Lopreato
Sarah Elizabeth Luersen ❖
Harry Tony Luettge ❖
Brooks Thomas Macey ❖
MacKenzie Leigh Magnolia
Aja Alexis Manning ❖
Amelia Sara Ernest-Manssuri ΦΘΚ
Samantha Anne Marconi
Zoe Marie Markovic ΦΘΚ
Madison Kelleigh Marshall ❖
Amira Rose Martin
Katelyn Grace Martin
Nolan Ronald Matson
Lilian Spring McDonald
Finley K. C. McGuckin
Samuel Gannon McMillin
Ava Marie McPhaul

degree candidates

Ryan Michael McQueeney
Abigail Rae Meadows
Maggie Lynn Meilhammer
Karen Alondra Mejia- Cuellar
Mark Edward Melotti ❖ ΦΘΚ
Lauren Emma Merriken
Zachary Aaron Michael
Leonard Edward Miller, IV
Teagan Grace Miller ΦΘΚ
Megan Elizabeth Mitchell ♦
Tissier Alethia Moaney
Trace Ryan Edward Montgomery
La'Shaun Amare Moody
Ty'Aishah Amya Moody
Andrea G. Moore
Shelby Julianne Moore ♦
Julia Moran
Rosemary Moreira
Ashley Kristina Myer ❖ ΦΘΚ
Chanae Kiara-Markia Neal
Claresse Oliveira
Karen Lissette Orellana-Bran ΦΘΚ
MacKenzie Marie Peacock
Maddox Alexander Pearce ΦΘΚ ♦
Alanna Gail Peerman ΦΘΚ
Alexis Jo Pete ΦΘΚ
Brooke Elizabeth Peters
Montgomery R. Petty
Amber Nichole Phillips ΦΘΚ ♦
Elizabeth Ann Pierson ❖
Erin Danielle Pinkett
Jocelyn Edith Portillo
Ashton Mekhi Pratt
Shawn Thomas Prince
Betsy Anne Quathammer ΦΘΚ ♦
Neida Elizabeth Ramirez
Isabella A. Rankin
Ryan Scott Ratzow

degree candidates

Matthew Eugene Rector
Morgan Elisabeth Reichart
Hailee Blake Retallack
Madelyn Rose Rickwood ❖
Haylee Nicole Robinson
Brooke Nicole Rocko
Austin J.A. Rodenhaver
Kelsey Lynne Rogers
Benjamin Joseph Rosendale ❖
Dana Phoebe Russell 🌱
Crystal Salguero-Salazar
Crystal Lynn Satterfield
Candace Ann Saulsbury
Joshua Newnam Schmidt
Shakeina Nicole Schoolfield ❖
Mia Isabel Schreyer
Ashley Nicole Shaffer
Alleane Dorethea Shepherd
Logan McKenna Shockley
Shania Lynn Shockley
Chase Kayden Simering ◆
Sunshine Star Simons
Brayden Harrington Smith
Randy Willy Soto-Mendez
Bradyn Hobie Speakman

Bailey Marie Spyridakos
Alexus Marie Stanley
Keith M. Stroup
Matthew Alan Suggs ◆ *
Alisha Sweeney Jackson ΦΘΚ ◆
Savannah Lee Talbott
Michael Robert Taylor
Anthony Augustus Thomas
Sharese Thompson
Ruth Kathryn Thomson
Amber Nichole Timms
Savannah Kyleigh Travis-Shuler
Sidney I. Tribbitt
Hailey Marissa Trippe 🩺
Yomery Vasquez Perez ΦΘΚ
Richard Alejandro Villeda
Zane Sebastian Voelz-Kilroy
Jessica Grace Watts
Shenell Casandra-Pearl White
Joseph O'Neil Whitley ◆
Gavin Kyle Whitman
Kaelyn Grace Wiedefeld
Elizabeth Lee Wood
Erick Eduardo Yunga ΦΘΚ

PLEASE NOTE:

Many of today's graduates completed degree requirements at the end of the Summer 2025 and Fall 2025 semesters. Some will receive their degrees "IN ABSENTIA."

ΦΘΚ Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Member

🩺 Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society Member

ΚΔΠ Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society Member

❖ Candidate for Graduation with Academic Honors

◆ Outstanding Graduate

🌱 Sustainability Scholars Program

* Dual Enrollment Graduate

the tradition of academic regalia

Like many of our other traditions, the wearing of the distinctive regalia began in England. There, in the second half of the 14th Century, the statutes of certain colleges prescribed the wearing of a long gown by faculty and students. Over time, distinctive colors were adopted by each discipline to distinguish them from their colleagues.

In 1895, agreement among several American universities was reached for the establishment of a suitable code of academic dress for this nation. This code, with modifications made in 1959, remains in force. The costumes, colors, trimmings, and patterns you see are all traditional, and interpret both the degree and field of learning.

The bachelor's gown, designed to be worn closed, has pointed sleeves. The master's gown, which may be worn open or closed, has an oblong, open sleeve that hangs down in traditional manner. The doctor's gown has bell-shaped sleeves. It may be worn open or closed.

The hoods, which differ in length for the three degrees, are lined with official colors of the university or college conferring the degree, usually with one color forming a chevron pattern over the other. Hoods are edged and bound with velvet of the color appropriate for the degree. Colors and corresponding fields of study are:

Apricot: Nursing

Crimson: Journalism

Golden Yellow: Science

Light Blue: Education

Purple: Law

Salmon Pink: Public Health

White: Arts, Letters, Humanities

Yellow/Brown: Commerce, Business, Accountancy

Brown: Fine Arts

Dark Blue: Philosophy

Lemon Yellow: Library Science

Pink: Music

Sage Green: Physical Education

Scarlet: Theology

Mortarboards are the approved headgear. The tassel, worn on the left of the cap, may be gold if the holder has a doctor's degree.

The mace is carried by the Faculty Marshal leading the procession to symbolize the authority of the faculty in academic matters and the practice of shared governance within the College. The Faculty Marshal is elected annually by Chesapeake College's faculty to represent them at ceremonial functions.

