

FIFTY-SEVENTH COMMENCEMENT



River Valley Community College

December 15, 2025
Claremont, NH



River Valley Community College

MISSION STATEMENT

River Valley Community College transforms lives by providing a quality and affordable education through innovative personal approaches to lifelong learning and career pathways.

HISTORY

Since 1968, River Valley Community College, formerly New Hampshire Community Technical College at Claremont, has been providing quality education in an academic environment small enough to allow individualized attention. Students in over thirty career oriented programs gain highly specialized skills and knowledge necessary to confidently and successfully enter the job market in a number of technical, business, and health oriented fields.

In 1999, the College implemented an Associate in Arts degree that provides the first two years of a four-year bachelor program. In 2004, the College starting offering courses at the Academic Center in Keene, NH. In the Spring of 2016, RVCC started offering classes at its location in downtown Lebanon, NH. The Academic Centers not only provide local access and assistance in college admissions procedures, information regarding academic advising, support services and financial aid, but also provide accessible learning environments throughout the College's service area.

THE TRADITION OF THE ROSE



After each student receives their diploma, they will receive a red rose from the College Faculty, Staff, and Administration. The rose symbolizes the budding new career path taken by the graduate. The red color of the flower symbolizes the abiding love and support given by the family and friends of the graduate. After the conclusion of the ceremony, the graduate is to complete the circle of recognition by presenting this rose to the person most significant in helping them complete this important milestone.



Program for Monday, December 15, 11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM Performed by **Amanda Couitt**

**President's Greetings &
Declaration of Commencement** Alfred Williams
President

**Greetings from the
Board of Trustees** Richard Ackerman

Faculty Speaker Cynthia Smith
Associate Professor, Nursing

**Tradition of the Rose &
Presentation of Candidates** Eileen Glover
Professor & Department Chair
Allied Health

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

CONFERRING OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

**Welcoming of Graduates Alfred Williams
as Alumni & President
Changing of the Tassel**

RECESSIONAL

Florence Nightingale Pledge



Program for Monday, December 15, 1:00 p.m.

PRELUDE PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM Performed by Amanda Couitt

**President's Greetings &
Declaration of Commencement** Alfred Williams
President

**Greetings from the
Board of Trustees** Richard Ackerman

Faculty Speaker Heather Newfield
Associate Professor & Program
Director, Practical Nursing

**Tradition of the Rose &
Presentation of Candidates** Eileen Glover
Professor & Department Chair
Allied Health

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

CONFERRING OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

**Welcoming of Graduates
as Alumni &
Changing of the Tassel** Alfred Williams
President

RECESSIONAL

Florence Nightingale Pledge



Program for Monday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.

PRELUDE PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM Performed by Amanda Couitt

**President's Greetings &
Declaration of Commencement** Alfred Williams
President

**Greetings from the
Board of Trustees** Richard Ackerman

Faculty Speaker Jillian Davis
Department Chair Professional Studies

Student Speaker Jacquelyne Jeanotte

**Tradition of the Rose &
Presentation of Candidates** Eileen Glover
Professor & Department Chair
Allied Health

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

CONFERRING OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

**Welcoming of Graduates
as Alumni &
Changing of the Tassel** Alfred Williams
President

RECESSIONAL

Florence Nightingale Pledge



2025 Graduates

ACCOUNTING

Associate of Science

Mitchell Hayner *

Jillian Davis

Program Director

Devin Sabalewski

ACCOUNTING

Certificate

Michelle Armstrong

Vivian Kozikowski

Jillian Davis

Program Director

Meghan M. Smith

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Associate of Science Degree

Jillian Davis

Program Director

Kevin Judd Jr.

Brittany Catherine Labarre

Ashley Marie Laroche

Alysha Mary Juliamarie Webster

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Certificate

Nedra L. Keenan

Jillian Davis

Program Director

Meghan M. Smith

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Associate of Science Degree

Demeter Peach Gala

Kerry Belknap Morris

Program Director

HEALTHCARE APPLICATIONS

Certificate

Arianna N. Fernald

Julie Robinson

Program Director

INFANT AND TODDLER

Certificate

Demeter Peach Gala

Kerry Belknap Morris

Program Director

**Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members
The teal cord indicates Student Government Association membership
The red, white, and blue cord indicates U.S. Armed Services active duty,
reserve, or veteran service member.*



2025 Graduates

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Associate of Science Degree

Gabriel S. Chabot

Marlon Gonzalaz
Program Director

Thomas Tsohonis

LIBERAL ARTS

Associate of Arts Degree

Irina Marjorie Rose Donato

Phylicia A. Roberts

Aimee Jahn
Department Chair

V. M. Steiner

NURSING

Associate of Science Degree

Michaela Marie Belville

Courtney Ann Bourgeois

Jassy Custer

Victoria Nubia Hickey

Denise Ruby
Department Chair

Hannah B. LaRoche

Megan Nicole Myhaver

Margaret Onofrio-Barker

Brianna Rae Thorburn

PRACTICAL NURSING

Certificate

Sarah H. Anderson

Summer J. Arsenault

Kasey Babcock

Lisa Beh

Jessica Lynn Bourassa

Erin C. Brooks

Cassie Marie Brown

Mystique Alexis Burke

Susan Elizabeth Carlson

Anna Rose Caron

Brittany R. Clark *

Hannah Maria Daigle

Kristina Daniels

Eileen Glover
Department Chair

Nate Englert

Kyleigh M. Farrell

Olivia Fitzpatrick

Jessie Anne Francis

Sierra Fulcher

Jerene Anne Gill

Genesis Gomez

Mackenzie Greenwood

Hattie Gunther

Emily Lamson

Chloe A. Hanson

Jacquelyne M. Jeanotte

Megan L. Kemp

**Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members*



2025 Graduates

PRACTICAL NURSING

Certificate - continued

Abigail Kibbie
Devin C. Lambert *
Melinda Marie Laro
Adriana J. Lemieux
Danielle Martell
Laura Michelewicz
Joseph Albert Nolet
Ariannah L. O'Brien
Mariia Ostrenko
Melissa Panza
Makayla L. Panzieri
Laura Ashley Pingree
Naima Konadu Pokua
Jessica Pond
Lindsay Rose Powers
Gabrielle Rebecca Roberts

Eileen Glover
Department Chair

Emma-Mae Rogers
Sarah Rachel Rosenstein
Mikaela S. Rounds
Lucy Ryann Sahagian
Olivia Katherine Sanford
Shelly Surufka
Sara Alivia Swartz
Darneisha Lizzane Thomas
Lindsay Tucker
Elizabeth A. Turcotte
Jasmine M. Vincent
Melinda Maxine Wardner
Kellin A. Wells
Edward Richard Whippie
Nicole Zalanskas

**Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members
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The red, white, and blue cord indicates U.S. Armed Services active duty,
reserve, or veteran service member.*



RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

President	Alfred Williams, BS, JD
Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs	Jennifer Cournoyer, BA, MLIS, EdD
Assistant to the President	Kelly F. Clark, BS, OT, M.Ed.
Human Resource Manager	Jill Spurr, AS

ALLIED HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Professor Eileen Glover, DNP, MSN, RN-BC, NEA-BC	<i>Chair</i>
Assistant Professor Kimberly Ambrose MSN, BSN, RN	
Professor Nancy Eckert, BS, MT(ASCP), MS	<i>Medical Laboratory Technician Program Director</i>
Associate Professor Kathy E. Hilliard BS, RRT	<i>Respiratory Therapy Program Director</i>
Associate Professor Jessica Horton, BS, MSLD RT(R)	<i>Radiologic Technology Program Director</i>
Assistant Professor Sandra LaPointe, BSN, RN, CMSRN	
Associate Professor Heather Newfield, MSN, RN, CEN, CPAN	<i>Practical Nursing Program Director</i>
Assistant Professor Michelle Sweeney, BSRT (R) (CT)	
Assistant Professor Constance White, BSN, RN, CRRN	
Assistant Professor Steven Zackowski BSRT, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPAS	



RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LIBERAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Professor Aimee Jahn, BS, MA, CAGS

Chair

Psychology Program Director

Professor Richard Andrusiak, BS, MA, MAT, EdD

Mathematics Program Director

Professor Cara Chanoine, MFA, PhD

English Program Director

Assistant Professor, Julie Foote

Professor Julie Robinson, BA, DC

Biological Science Program Director

NURSING DEPARTMENT

Professor Denise Ruby, MSN, BSN, RN

Chair

Associate Professor Traci Fairbanks, MSN, RN

Professor Sonya Kuykendall, MSN, RN, CHPN, CNEcl

Professor Connie Powell, MSN, BSN, RN

Associate Degree Nursing Program Director

Associate Professor Aime Reed, MSN, BSN, RN

Associate Professor Cynthia Smith, MSN, RN



RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Assistant Professor Jillian Davis, BS, MBA

Chair

Accounting Program Director

Business Management Program Director

Associate Professor Marlon Gonzalas

Computer Technology Program Director

Professor Kerry Belknap Morris, BA, MEd.

Childhood Education Program Director

Social Services Program Director

Associate Professor Robert Morris, AAS, BS, MS

REHABILITATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Professor Kim-Laura Boyle, BA, MS, DPT

Chair

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director

Assistant Professor Megan Nichols, BS, MOT *Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Director*

Professor Amanda Couitt, BA, DPT

Associate Professor Erin Damren, OTD, OTR/L

Assistant Professor Michael Jacovina, BFA, AOS, LMT *Massage Therapy Program Director*



RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACADEMIC ADVISORS

Elizabeth Guimond, BS, MBA

Accounting, Business Management

Nickole Milo, BA, MEd

Healthcare Applications

Diane Nocco, BS, CLS

Liberal Arts

Dixie Vestal, BA

Allied Health

ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR

Nickole Milo, BA, MEd

PHI THETA KAPPA

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society devoted to recognizing and encouraging scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship in two-year colleges. Membership is by invitation. River Valley Community College hosts the Alpha Delta Chi Chapter.

GRADUATION HONORS

CGPA 3.20 - 3.59 = Cum Laude

CGPA 3.60 - 3.89 = Magna Cum Laude

CGPA 3.90 - 4.00 = Summa Cum Laude

Graduates earning a CGPA of 3.50 or higher are entitled to wear a gold tassel.

Congratulations Graduates and Welcome Alumni!

Whether you graduated from New Hampshire Vocational
Technical College, New Hampshire Technical College,
New Hampshire Community Technical College,
or River Valley Community College,

we are proud of your success!



**GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE HONORABLE KELLY AYOTTE**

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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President Cheryl Lesser, GBCC
President Sarmad Saman, WMCC
President Patrick Tompkins, NHTI
President Alfred Williams, RVCC

**River Valley Community College
Advisory Committee**

Rob W. Taylor, Chair

Catherine Bardier
David Finnerty
Ashley Greenfield-Romeo

Cheryl Kahn
Timothy McNulty
Phil Shaw



RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Today's academic procession is derived from European religious processions of the 12th and 13th centuries when universities were forming but were still closely associated with the medieval church. The order used in the procession evolved in this country as institutions of higher learning began to value the role of ceremony. At River Valley, the President is at the front of the line carrying the mace, followed by the Commencement Speaker and Platform Guests, followed by the honored Graduates. A similar order is used for the Recessional.

THE MEDALLION OF OFFICE

The Presidential Medallion is designed around the official college seal and is worn on ceremonial occasions. The college seal contains the founding year and images of a falcon, shield, the book of knowledge and a river. These symbolic icons embody the ideals of freedom, courage and intelligence, and the regional abundance brought together by the powerful rivers that connect River Valley Community College to the environment, industry, agriculture, and the economic and educational communities we serve.

THE MACE

The word "mace" is derived from the Latin "mateola", meaning mallet or staff. In the Middle Ages, these staffs, with a ball of copper or brass at one end, were used as weapons against armored warriors. As weaponry became more sophisticated, the mace evolved as a symbol of power. Universities in Europe adopted the mace as a symbol of authority and unity, and today many institutions use the mace in a ceremonial capacity.

THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

The caps, gowns, and hoods seen today evolved from European medieval costumes worn during religious processions to distinguish church and university members from the laity. Most medieval scholars had taken at least minor orders and, like clerics, wore long robes for warmth in unheated buildings. In present times, the attire serves to indicate, by style and adornment, the chief academic degree attained, the major field of study, and the college or university attended by the wearer.



THE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE

I pledge myself here, before my God and in the presence of this assembly, to practice my profession with integrity.

I will endeavor to maintain and elevate the standard of nursing, both as a science and as an art.

I wholeheartedly recognize the importance of high standards of care and of personal accountability.

I devote myself to the healing, protection, and welfare of those committed to my care.

I accept a duty to work for the improvement of health in the communities in which I live and work.

I will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping, and will respect the privacy of medical information.

I will act with compassion in ethical matters.

I will not knowingly administer or consume any harmful substance.

I commit to interdisciplinary collaboration and lifelong learning.

I fully acknowledge the seriousness of the responsibility that I accept in my calling, and the significance of this pledge that I take today.

