



*48th Annual*  
*Nurses' Pinning*  
*Ceremony*

*Friday, May 8th, 2026*

*Senate Commons*

*Myles Center for the Arts*

*Elkins, West Virginia*

48th Annual  
*Professional Nurses' Pinning Ceremony*

Prelude .....	Ms. Donna B. Huffman Assistant Professor of Music
*Processional .....	<b>2026-2027 DESNA Officers</b> Mary Grace Beverage, President Raylynn M. Roberts, Vice President Niya M. Nutter, Secretary Aliyah D. Biller, Treasurer Zoe C. Belshan, Historian Erin N. Dettinger, Chaplain
*Invocation .....	Dr. Franklin Tanner Capps Benfield-Vick Chaplain
Greetings .....	Chris A. Wood President
Introduction of Speaker .....	Karen J. Seel Professor of Nursing
Pinning Address: <i>"Hope in the Hard Times"</i> .....	Lt. Robin C. Stillwater, ASN 2013 (Summa cum laude), BS Religion and Philosophy, 2014, Davis & Elkins College
Presentation of Candidates .....	Rebekah R. Hoxie, Assistant Professor of Nursing Valerie L. Posey, Associate Professor of Nursing
Presentation of Pins .....	Rebekah R. Hoxie Valerie L. Posey Karen J. Seel Sallie A. Hamrick, Assistant Professor of Nursing Katrina A. Sparks, Instructor of Nursing AmyJo Wallingford, Associate Professor of Nursing
Presentation of Roses .....	Christina H. Swecker, Professor of Nursing Rachelle E. Hill, Assistant Professor of Nursing
**Florence Nightingale Pledge .....	Lillian J. Stephens, President, 2025-2026 Davis & Elkins College Student Nurses Association
Special Music: <i>Landslide</i> , Fleetwood Mac .....	Marissa L. Mallow Davis & Elkins College Choir
*Benediction .....	Dr. Capps

*\*The audience will please stand, if able.*

*\*\*The candidates will please stand.*

**Reception immediately following the ceremony in Senate Commons.  
 Special Recognition: The Gideons International**

## **Nurses' Pinning Speaker**

### **Lt. Robin C. Stillwater**

Lt. Robin C. Stillwater was born in Utah and raised in rural Ohio. She earned two degrees from Davis & Elkins College: an Associate Degree in Nursing in 2013 and a Bachelor's degree in Religion and Philosophy in 2014. In the summer of 2017, she was commissioned into the Navy Chaplain Candidate Officer Program. She completed her Master of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary and also completed Clinical Pastoral Education. She is a Registered Nurse.

Lt. Stillwater began her ministry as a youth pastor at Woodford Memorial United Methodist Church in Elkins, West Virginia, in 2012. During seminary, she interned with the Revolutionary Love movement at Middle Collegiate Church in New York City and later provided pastoral leadership at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Monica during the 2018 to 2019 year. She completed a Clinical Pastoral Education residency at the New York Harbor Veterans Affairs Hospital in 2020, then served as a hospice chaplain. After commissioning to active duty, she completed the Chaplain Basic Leadership Course in April 2022 and served as a staff chaplain at Naval Station Great Lakes Recruit Training Command from 2022 to 2025. In July 2025, she became a Board Certified Chaplain. She currently serves aboard the USS Sterett (DDG 104), homeported in San Diego, California, and completed a combat deployment during Operation Rough Rider.

Her honors from Davis & Elkins College include the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award, presented to students who demonstrate a spirit of helpfulness and an appreciation for the intangible values of life, as well as the Outstanding Young Alumna Award in 2024, along with several additional academic and personal recognitions. Her favorite food is popcorn, despite twice setting off a dorm smoke alarm while making it during her time at D&E.



## **The Nursing Program**

This ceremony marks the graduation of the two classes of 2026 with the Associate in Science Degree in Nursing (ASN) and Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (BSN). Further, this ceremony marks the continuation of the vision and the faith of many community and college members who have worked diligently to develop our unique and excellent programs. This group includes health education specialists and representatives from the clinical affiliates who work with the College faculty and administrators to build these programs.

In May 1976, the Board of Trustees of Davis Memorial Hospital approved the transfer of the management and sponsoring of its LPN program to Davis & Elkins College. In August 1976, the Davis Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, which had served this community since 1903, closed its doors to nursing education. A new door to a new program at Davis & Elkins College opened in September 1976, with full registration of qualified students. The ASN program is approved by the West Virginia RN Board, and was accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Today, a significant number of graduates serve in health-related positions in the local area. The ASN and LPN-ASN programs were the No. 3 ranked Nursing Program in West Virginia by RegisteredNursing.org in 2023.

In 2013, the college administration requested that the nursing department investigate reinstating an RN-BSN degree completion program. The proposal received approval from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the Faculty Assembly, and the Division of Nursing in 2014. The first class of students was admitted in January of 2015. In the Fall of 2018, the RN-BSN program became accredited by the National League for Nursing Commission on Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN-CNEA). In 2022, D&E RN-BSN program was ranked No. 1 Online Nursing Program in West Virginia by RegisteredNursing.org.

Davis & Elkins College's traditional 4-year pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree (BSN) program was in place for several years, beginning in 1981. In 1992, the program was converted to a nontraditional mentored assisted program (MAP) to meet the needs and interests of prospective registered professional nurses returning for a bachelor's degree. In 1999, the faculty redesigned the RN to BSN completion program. Still, it was discontinued shortly after a weekend option degree completion program was launched in a nearby college, and applications to Davis & Elkins College's program were significantly diminished. Due to the greater enrollment numbers in the Associate Degree program and to conserve resources, the BSN program was not offered from 1999 until 2019.

In line with the College's vision to expand healthcare-related programs after successfully initiating the online RN to BSN program and responding to identified student and healthcare facility needs, the traditional BSN program was re-instituted in 2019. The BSN program (4-year traditional and 3-year accelerated options) is approved by the State of West Virginia and received initial accreditation from the NLN-CNEA in February 2023 and ACEN in May 2023. To date, the D&E traditional BSN program is the only dual-accredited BSN program in West Virginia.

We appreciate the faculty, students, and friends of the College who are dedicated to improving health care in our area and our state. We are grateful for their encouragement and support of our efforts to extend and enhance the services of Davis & Elkins College.

## **Nursing Candidates for Graduation Associate of Science in Nursing**

**Lindsay R. Clendenen**  
Buckeye, WV

**Kaitlyn E. Lantz**  
Buckhannon, WV

**Rochelle N. Shoulders**  
Beverly, WV

**Alexander J. Dickinson**  
Elkins, WV

**Rachel B. Petrice**  
Elkins, WV

**Emily N. Snyder**  
Junior, WV

**Isaac T. Ferguson**  
Barboursville, WV

**Autumn E. Plauger**  
Beverly, WV

**Makenzie E. Wagoner**  
Buckhannon, WV

**Faith P. Johnson**  
Buckhannon, WV

**Caitlyn A. Rhodes**  
Harman, WV

**Larissa J. Wegman**  
Elkins, WV

**Lorraine E. Lanham**  
Huttonsville, WV

**Jennifer R. Scheuvront**  
Clarksburg, WV

**Haleigh A. Wilfong**  
Mill Creek, WV



## **Nursing Candidates for Graduation Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

**Arika F. Barbe**  
Beverly, WV

**Addison G. London**  
Lawrence, KS

**Lillian J. Stephens**  
Bridgeport, WV

**Nicholas M. Barrickman**  
Dailey, WV

**Lexi M. Reger**  
Elkins, WV

**Macaden M. Taylor**  
Dunmore, WV

**Ella G. Hesson**  
Parkersburg, WV

**Hannah B. Shingler**  
Sutton, WV

**Ashley M. Wolford**  
Elkins, WV

**Alexa L. Karsel**  
Longmont, CO

**Walker A. Shirley**  
Katy, TX

**Ashlyn F. Zapach**  
Albuquerque, NM



## **Nursing Graduates R.N. to Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

**Alisha D. McCauley**  
Montrose, WV

**MacKenzie R. Skidmore**  
Philippi, WV

## **Nursing Pin and Lamp**

The modern-day pinning ceremony first began in the 1860's. The nursing pin is presented to the new graduate nurse at the pinning ceremony by faculty members as a symbolic welcome to the profession. After the new graduate nurses were pinned, Florence Nightingale would light a lamp and pass the flame to the graduating nurses. The "Florence Nightingale Pledge" is recited by the new graduate nursing class while the lamps are lit as a pledge to their devotion and dedication to the field of nursing.

## **Florence Nightingale Pledge**

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully.

I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.

I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling.

With loyalty I will endeavor to aid the physician in his work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

## **Directors**

### **Melissa A. McCoy, PHD, RN, CNE**

Professor of Nursing  
Director of the ASN Program

### **Huixin Wu, DNP, MBA, APRN, RN, CCRN, CCNS**

Associate Professor of Nursing  
Director of BSN Programs & Chair of Division of Nursing

## **Nursing Faculty**

### **Sallie A. Hamrick, MSN-Ed., RN**

Assistant Professor of Nursing

### **Rachelle E. Hill, MSN, RN**

Assistant Professor of Nursing

### **Rebekah R. Hoxie, DND, RN**

Assistant Professor of Nursing

### **Valerie L. Posey, MSN, RN, CNE, CMSRN**

Associate Professor of Nursing

### **Karen J. Seel, MSN, RN, CEN, CNE, CMSRN**

Professor of Nursing

### **Katrina M. Sparks, BSN, RN**

Instructor of Nursing

### **Christina L. Swecker, NHD, MSN, RN, CHSE**

Professor of Nursing

### **AmyJo Wallingford, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, AE-C**

Assistant Professor of Nursing

## **Clinical Nursing Faculty**

### **Brenda D. Hornick, BSN, RN**

Clinical Instructor of Nursing

### **Theresa R. Hoskins, MSN, RN**

Clinical Instructor of Nursing

### **Sarah M. Knicely, BSN, RN**

Clinical Instructor of Nursing



## **Staff**

### **Brenda J. Miller**

Administrative Assistant Division of Nursing