



Northeastern University
Bouvé College of Health Sciences
School of Nursing

PINNING CEREMONY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025

2:00 PM

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
CHARLOTTE CAMPUS

2151 HAWKINS STREET, 8TH FLOOR
CHARLOTTE, NC 28203

PROGRAM

WELCOME	Grace Buttriss, DNP, FNP-BC, CNL Director, Accelerated BSN Program Charlotte Campus
DEANS' REMARKS	Amanda Choflet, DNP, RN, NEA-BC Dean, School of Nursing Angela Hosking, MSN, RN, MBA CEO & Regional Dean, Charlotte Campus
INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Grace Buttriss, DNP, FNP-BC, CNL Director, Accelerated BSN Program Charlotte Campus
KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Kotaya Griffith DNP, RN, AGNP-C, CNL Chief APP Leader, Atrium Health Senior Care
INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKER	Grace Buttriss, DNP, FNP-BC, CNL Director, Accelerated BSN Program Charlotte Campus
STUDENT'S ADDRESS	Alayssia Meadows Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program
PRESENTATION & PINNING OF CANDIDATE	Officiated by: Grace Buttriss, DNP, FNP-BC, CNL Director, Accelerated BSN Program Charlotte Campus
STUDENT AWARDS PRESENTATION	Officiated by: Grace Buttriss, DNP, FNP-BC, CNL Director, Accelerated BSN Program Charlotte Campus
CLOSING REMARKS	Amanda Choflet, DNP, RN, NEA-BC Dean, School of Nursing

*We ask those in attendance to kindly silence their electronic devices
and to remain in their seats until the platform party has left the stage
and the graduate recessional has finished.*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KOTAYA GRIFFITH DNP, RN, AGNP-C, CNL



Dr. Kotaya Griffith serves as the Chief Advanced Practice Professional (APP) for Atrium Health Senior Care's Post-Acute Care Geriatrics Division, located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

She has 21 years of nursing experience and currently works as a nurse practitioner specializing in geriatrics. Dr. Griffith also serves as an adjunct faculty member for Northeastern University's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Charlotte program. As a mentor, published author, and a member of several professional organizations, including the North Carolina Nurse Association and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, she is passionate about supporting and guiding new graduate nurses in their careers.

Dr. Griffith earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Winston Salem State University; her Master's degree as a Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) from Queens University of Charlotte; and her Post-Masters Certification and Doctor of Nursing Practice degree as an Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner from East Carolina University.

PINNING TRADITION

The School of Nursing pin is a distinctive mark, rich in history and meaning. It can be traced to heraldry, which is the system of devising and granting insignias for Coats of Arms. The Pinning Ceremony is a time-honored nursing school tradition, dating back to 1855 when Florence Nightingale was awarded a brooch by England's Queen Victoria for her efforts in the Crimean War. It signifies the integrity and tradition of badges worn by the early healers and crusaders of care. Over the course of time, the Pinning Ceremony has evolved and for most, marks the passage from that of student nurse role to the practice role, and for some, the attainment of advanced education.

Each school adopts its own symbol to indicate the excellent nursing education the student received. In the Pinning Ceremony performed today, each baccalaureate student may receive a pin that proudly displays Northeastern University's motto *Lux Veritas Virtus*. Regardless of where their new careers in nursing take them, their pins will let their colleagues and patients know where they earned their nursing credentials. The pin also signifies the acceptance of the many responsibilities incumbent upon those entering into the profession and practice of nursing. Wearing of the nursing pin is a source of pride.

2025 BSN DEGREE CANDIDATES

ACCELERATED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM

Baleigh Armstrong

Callie Bailey

China Bailey

Ryan Blanchard

Brianna Bocca

Hannah Crowder

Taylor Denning

Zakiya Dillahunt

Richley Durandis

Precious Fields

Darrius Green

Macy Harmon

De'Shonda James

Cassidy Jelen

Roussel Jerome

Cherokee Johnson

Emily Joyner

Rajaa Kabli

Colleen King §

Hannah King

Reagan Love

Maia Marbella

Emily Mauldin

Alayssia Meadows

Amanda Meza §

Sneha Murthy

Peyton O'Grady

Bethanney Otto

Jacquelyn Palmiotto

Alma Rodriguez

Morgan Stone

Amy Sutton

Ryan Swarts

Rebecca Thompson

Hadley Walker

SCHOOL OF NURSING LEADERSHIP & FACULTY

Amanda Choflet, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Dean, School of Nursing, Associate Dean, Bouve College of Health Sciences

Stacey Waite, DNP, RN, CNE, Assistant Dean, Nursing Pre-licensure Programs

Lynn Reede, DNP, MBA, CRNA, FNAP, Assistant Dean, Nursing Graduate Programs & Director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

Jane Saczynski, PhD, Assistant Dean of Research, School of Nursing

Yiyuan Sun, DNSc, RN, CNE, Associate Chair, School of Nursing

Barbara Ballard MSN, RN, FNP-BC

Jessica Bandy MSN, RN

Yarshika Barringer MSN, RN, CNL

Susan Bartos PhD, RN, CCRN

Stephanie Bethea MSN, RN

Anne Bixler BSN, RN

Kami Blackley BSN, RN

Decoya Blue DNP, RN, PNP

Heather Brown MSN, RN, CNL

Sharon Brown DNP, RN, FNP, PMHP

Angela Bruccoli, DNP, RN, BCEN, NEA-BC

Monica Burnette MSN, RN

Brittanie Butler, BSN, RN, CNOR

Darby Buttriss, MSN, RN, CPN

Tru Byrnes DNP, RN, CNL, CMSRN

Jennifer Church MSN, RN

NaTonya Daniels DNP, RN, CNML

Katrina Daye-Whitehead MSN, RN, CNL

Jennifer Deese DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC

Lucy Easter, PhD, RN NEA-BC

Deborah Evans DNP, RN

Emily Frederick BSN, RN, OCN, CMSRN

Tammy Garcia DNP, RN, PMHNP

Lindsay Garner BSN, RN, RNS-OB, C-EFM

Dalena Gleaton, MS, FNP-C

Kotoya Griffith DNP, RN, NP-C, CNL

Kenya Gregg MSN, RN, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC

Tukessa Goodwin MSN, RN

Sarah Heafner BSN, RN

Jessica Hernandez MSN

Sharon Hood MSN, CNL

Renee James, MBA, RN

April Keever, MSN, RNFA, CNOR, C-EFM

Desirae Kindley, BSN, RN

Christy Leyland, DNP, CPN, CNL, CPNP-AC

Krystal Lott MSN, RN

Savannah Maloney BSN

Rachael Marshall BSN, RN, C-EFM

Colton McElveen BSN

Karen McKahan PhD, NEBC

Erin Morabito, MSN, RN, CPN

Jamie Lee Misencik BSN, RN, CPN

Stephanie O'Bryon DNP, NEA-BC

Susan Patterson, DNP, RN, CNE

Sherise Pittman MSN, RN

Leah Prasse DMSc, MSN, RN, RNC-OB

Sarah Price MSN, RN, CNL

Veronica Rankin DNP, RN-BC, NP-C, CNL
NE-BC

Tina Raylea, DNP, RN, NP, RN, CARN, CNL

Kristy Rogers, DNP, CPNP-PC

Nicolas Rojas MSN, RN, APN-NP

Rob Rose DNP, RN, NEA-BC

Brandy Santana MSN, RN, CNL

Racquel Santiago, MSN, RN

Kathy Shaffer, DNP, AGCNS-BC, C-ONQS

Taylor Smith MSN, RN

Sally Underwood, MSN, RN, CARN

Brittney Walden MSN, RN

Janice Walker DHS, MBA-HCA, RN, NEA-BC

Joselyn White MSN, MHA, RN, CNL

MaryAnn White, MSN, RN, CDE

