

---

**[FacultyStaff] Message from President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., May 12, 2025**

---

**President's Office** <President.Office@fredonia.edu>  
Reply-To: president.office@fredonia.edu  
To: All Registered students <students@fredonia.edu>  
Cc: Faculty/Staff group <facultystaff@fredonia.edu>

Mon, May 12, 2025 at 5:49 PM



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

---

May 12, 2025

Dear Students,  
Happy Monday!

This marks our final week of this semester and this academic year! Congratulations to all those graduating this week, and I look forward to congratulating you in person as you walk across the stage. I hope you are very excited about your big day. First-year-first-time students, you did it! It was not too long ago when we walked underneath the Clock Tower to music and pomp, welcoming you to SUNY Fredonia. I hope your experience has been wonderful and you are ready to move to your sophomore year. You should feel proud of what you have accomplished.

As we come to the end of the academic year, I want to take some time to celebrate a few things. First, please join me in congratulating faculty and staff members who have touched your journey here in a very special way and are

recipients of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence for the 2024-25 academic year:

- Jason Bussman, Adjunct Instructor, Department of English, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching
- Rhonda Gominiak, Administrative Assistant for the Division of Finance and Administration, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service
- Erin Mroczka, Assistant Vice President for Retention and Academic Success, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service
- Reneta Barneva, Professor and Chair of the Department of Applied Professional Studies, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service
- Christina Hilburger, Senior Assistant Librarian, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship

I would also like to give shout-outs to the organizers and participants of some events that I was able to attend recently:

1. First Symposium for Ethnic & Gender Studies held in conjunction with the Writers at Work - I enjoyed the panel discussion and the presentation made by students.
2. Suicide Prevention March - It was good to see many members of our campus community, including students, and other organizations from our region, joining the march.
3. Big Blue Bash - Students, thank you for organizing this bash. I enjoyed being there. Let's do this again next year.
4. School of Business Awards Ceremony - Congratulations to all the students who were recognized for their achievements.
5. Honors Celebration - I attended a ceremony recognizing honors students, transfer students, and international students, and it was heartening to see so many in attendance and to learn of their many accomplishments.
6. Freddys - Congratulations to all our student athletes who were recognized. Their accomplishments both in the classroom and in the field

are impressive. I was moved deeply by the “Blue Devil Belief Award,” which was given to Jacob Winn.

7. IBAC - Many thanks to the faculty of the School of Business for organizing and hosting the second International Business Analytics Conference.

This is a newly formed conference, and I hope we will continue to host this important gathering that involves both students and professionals.

8. School of Music Convocation - Congratulations to all those students who received awards.

Students, in writing this update to you, I reflected on many engagements that involved you during the academic year: your choice to pursue your education here; your campus activities; your interaction with your instructors; your interactions with your fellow students; and your growth intellectually and socially. I thought about how even a single year at college can create numerous changes in one’s life. I thought about the sacrifices you and your families made to be here this year. I thought about all those who worked and contributed to the many efforts that got you through this academic year - faculty and staff; donors; SUNY Administration; tax payers; and others. I thought about the hard work that you put in to get through this year. I thought about your athletic events, your musical and theatrical performances, your research presentation, internships, student teaching, and community service engagements. I thought about many things involving you that time and space will not allow me to elucidate at this moment. I am in awe of all the wonderful things SUNY Fredonia is because you are here. So, thank you for choosing SUNY Fredonia as the place for your education. I am grateful for that choice, and I sincerely hope that this year was a good one for you overall.

Graduates, my very best wishes to you for the journey ahead. There are about 723 of you receiving your degrees at this commencement. I am proud of you. Continuing students, I am looking forward to seeing you next year. If you are facing any challenge regarding your return next academic year, please let us know by contacting [Academic Advising](#).

Faculty and staff, thank you. Many thanks to our donors, friends, and supporters for all that you do to help us to keep fulfilling our mission.

Everyone, have a wonderful and safe summer!

Very truly yours,

Dr. K

Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Ph.D.

President and Professor

---

**Follow Us On Social Media**



Office of the President | 138 Fenton Hall | 280 Central Avenue | State University of New York at  
Fredonia | Fredonia, NY 14063

--  
Visit this group at <https://groups.google.com/a/fredonia.edu/d/forum/facultystaff>