

CLASS OF 2023
Commencement



24 MAY 2023
SEATTLE

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This program is for ceremonial purposes only and is not to be considered an official confirmation of degree information. It contains only those details available at the publication deadline.

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.

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A UNIVERSITY ENGAGED WITH THE WORLD

THE HISTORY OF NORTHEASTERN

Founded in 1898, Northeastern is a global research university and the recognized leader in experiential learning. Despite the university's current preeminence, Northeastern had modest origins.

At the end of the 19th century, immigrants and first-generation Americans constituted more than half of Boston's population. Chief among the city's institutions committed to helping these people improve their lives was the Boston YMCA. The YMCA became a place where young men gathered to hear lectures on literature, history, music, and other subjects considered essential to intellectual growth.

In response to the enthusiastic demand for these lectures, the directors of the YMCA organized the "Evening Institute for Young Men" in May 1896. Frank Palmer Speare, a well-known teacher and high-school principal with considerable experience in public schools, was hired as the institute's director. Two years later, under Speare's direction, the YMCA advertised the creation of the "Department of Law of the Boston YMCA," and on October 3, 1898, Robert Gray Dodge taught the first class. The program, an immediate success, marked the birth of Northeastern University. Speare would later remark, "We started with an eraser and two sticks of chalk."

When demand for other courses grew, Speare moved to add more programs, and in 1909 the full-time day colleges began instruction. That same year, the Evening Polytechnic School announced "cooperative engineering courses," in which students would have an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in the workplace—the beginning of Northeastern's signature cooperative education program.

Decades of expansion

The school continued to grow, and in 1922 the College of Business was founded. More space was needed. The university purchased the former home of the Boston Red Sox in 1929, and in 1934 the Boston architectural firm Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott was awarded the contract to design Richards Hall. Using what was to become the campus signature—white brick—Shepley, Bulfinch presented plans for a neoclassical building. Opened in 1938, Richards Hall was the first building to appear on the front quadrangle.

As the campus grew, so did Northeastern's programs. In 1935, the College of Liberal Arts was added, signaling that Northeastern was on its way to becoming a major university.

When Speare stepped down as president in 1940, he was replaced by Carl Stephens Ell, dean of the College of Engineering. It was under Ell's leadership that Northeastern first admitted women to full-time day programs.

In the postwar world, Northeastern, like its peer institutions, saw a phenomenal increase in the number of people attending college. The university expanded its programs to accommodate this growing population of increasingly diverse students. In rapid succession,

additional programs and colleges were established: College of Education, 1953; University College, 1960; College of Pharmacy, 1962; College of Nursing, 1964; Boston Bouvé College, 1964; College of Criminal Justice, 1967; and College of Computer Science, 1982.

This expansion of programs brought with it a need for more buildings—and land. When Ell retired as president in 1959, he was succeeded by Asa S. Knowles. Under his leadership, suburban properties in Weston, Nahant, and Burlington were acquired and the Boston campus blossomed with new buildings, including various undergraduate dormitories designed to accommodate the increasing number of residential students at what had been primarily a commuter campus.

Transforming the Boston campus

When Knowles retired in 1975, he was succeeded by Kenneth G. Ryder, who had begun his career at Northeastern as a member of the history department and had risen through the ranks to become executive vice president before his election as president. Under his leadership, the university expanded and enriched its programs, particularly in the arts and humanities, and continued to improve its facilities. Plans for the Snell Library were finalized during Ryder's tenure, and the campus was beautified. During these years, Northeastern also deepened its commitment to Boston and its neighborhoods.

In 1989, Ryder stepped down as the fourth president of the university. He was succeeded by John A. Curry, Northeastern's executive vice president and its first alumnus to become president. With President Curry in charge, the university embarked on a series of ambitious undertakings, including a new science and engineering research center, a state-of-the-art classroom building, a recreation complex, and several new graduate and undergraduate programs.

To support these new ventures, Curry led Northeastern in a successful fundraising campaign. His years of leadership also featured significant restructuring as the university prepared to enter its second century. In June 1996, after four decades of service, Curry retired from Northeastern. To succeed him, the trustees elected Richard M. Freeland as the university's sixth president.

Elevating experience

A distinguished historian and administrator, President Freeland brought to the university a renewed sense of energy and mission. His programs were designed to support his vision of Northeastern as a university that would be student-centered, practice-oriented, and urban. Northeastern developed the West Campus with architecturally acclaimed residence halls and teaching facilities for the health sciences and computer science, and added new spaces to enrich student life on campus.

When Freeland stepped down in 2006, he was succeeded by Joseph E. Aoun, an internationally known linguistics scholar. Northeastern's seventh president came from the University of Southern California, where he served as dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences. President Aoun developed an academic plan outlining the university's vision in several areas: experiential learning, global outreach, use-inspired research, urban engagement, and intellectual life. He greatly expanded global co-op opportunities. He also aligned the university's research with three worldwide imperatives—health, security, and

sustainability—with a focus on interdisciplinary solutions.

A rising global profile

Under Aoun's leadership, Northeastern launched a system of campuses designed to be platforms for lifelong learning aligned with area economies. The first two opened in Charlotte, North Carolina (2011), and Seattle (2013). Three more campuses followed in San Francisco and San Jose, California (2015), and in Toronto (2016).

In 2016, Aoun led the development of a new academic plan, *Northeastern 2025*. The plan was a blueprint for transforming the university into a global university system—featuring networks of learners and innovators—designed to empower people to succeed in this era of unprecedented technological change. Accordingly, the university expanded the role of its global campuses to serve as platforms for learning, research, and industry partnerships. In 2019, it opened another location in Vancouver and acquired New College of the Humanities in London, now officially Northeastern University London and offering undergraduates a unique opportunity to earn a dual U.S./U.K. degree. Later in 2019, Northeastern launched a research campus in Arlington, Virginia, an addition to two existing research campuses in Nahant and Burlington, Massachusetts (formed in 1967 and 2012 respectively).

Then in January 2020, technology entrepreneur David Roux and his wife, Barbara, made an investment in the university to open the Roux Institute in Portland, Maine. The institute focuses on graduate studies and research in fields such as AI, digital engineering, and advanced life sciences, amplified by industry partnerships. It was specifically designed to be a model of how higher education can ignite economic development in regions of the country largely bypassed by the innovation economy, setting a new bar for what the global university system could achieve.

Resilience and momentum

The same revolutionary vision for global learning and discovery that inspired *Northeastern 2025* infuses the university's latest academic plan, *Experience Unleashed*. The plan is designed to deepen the impact of Northeastern's global network by maximizing the power of experience to understand and solve the world's interconnected, ever-evolving challenges.

In 2022, the university took a significant step in realizing the potential for its global system by merging with Mills College in Oakland, California, becoming the first university with comprehensive residential campuses for undergraduate and graduate students on both U.S. coasts. Northeastern's Oakland campus is now home to Mills College at Northeastern and the Mills Institute, focused on equity, social justice, and women's leadership. Later in 2022, Northeastern announced its newest campus in Miami, with graduate education and innovation partnerships aligned with South Florida's economic growth.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our university community, Frank Palmer Spere's "eraser and two sticks of chalk" have evolved into one of the world's most innovative universities and a platform for significant impact. Our faculty collaborates more fluidly with experts across industry, government, and community-based organizations. Ideas and solutions can be scaled. And our students are empowered to be true global citizens, scientists, entrepreneurs, and creators—prepared to make an impact wherever they go.

CAMPUS HISTORY

Northeastern's Seattle campus opened in 2013 and holds the title of the first private research university in Washington State. Located in South Lake Union—an epicenter for innovation and discovery—the Seattle campus serves as a hub for cutting-edge thought leaders who inspire, create, and develop new technologies. Seattle is also home to industry giants, such as Amazon, Microsoft, Boeing, and Starbucks, who are leading transformations in software engineering, bioinformatics, aerospace, and genomics. The campus was established to meet the growing need for computer science and engineering education in the area as the region's booming tech industry became increasingly central to Seattle's economy. Since its founding, the Seattle campus has developed an increasingly diverse array of programs in other fields, including programs in law, criminology, and education.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We honor Indigenous peoples in the United States and Canada including those on whose ancestral homelands the Northeastern global university system resides in North America. We acknowledge the peoples who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial and we recognize the nations and their ancestors who belonged to, cared for, and protected the land.

PROGRAM

Prelude

Seattle String Quartet

Processional

Candidates

Faculty

Platform Party led by lead Marshal Ian Gorton

Professor of the Practice and Director of Computing Programs, Seattle Campus

Land Acknowledgment

Dave Thurman

Regional Dean & CEO, Seattle Campus

National Anthem

Seattle String Quartet

Welcome

Dave Thurman

Regional Dean & CEO, Seattle Campus

Global Network Greeting

Mary Ludden

Senior Vice President for Global Network & Strategic Initiatives

Presiding Provost Acknowledgment

Mike Pollastri

Senior Vice Provost

Student Address

Amrita Bagwe, CPS '23

MS Project Management

Commencement Address

Felicia Guity

Global Executive Leadership: Chief Operations & Executive Strategist, Google

Degrees in Course

Dave Thurman

Regional Dean & CEO, Seattle Campus

Dean Gregory Abowd

College of Engineering

Jodi Tims, Associate Dean of Network Programs

Khoury College of Computer Science

Paula Boyum, Associate Dean Seattle Campus

College of Social Sciences and Humanities

Dean Radhika Seshan

College of Professional Studies

Conferring of Degrees

Mike Pollastri

Senior Vice Provost

Announcement of the Graduates

Hooding Ceremony

Dr. Corliss Thompson

Associate Dean Graduate School of Education, College of Professional Studies

Alumni Welcome

Akriti Chadda, MSCS '21

Applied Scientist II, Microsoft

Charge to the Graduates

Dave Thurman

Regional Dean & CEO, Seattle Campus

Recessional

Platform Party led by Marshal Ian Gorton

Professor of the Practice and Director of Computing Programs, Seattle Campus

Faculty

Graduates

We kindly ask those in attendance to silence their electronic devices.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Commencement Speaker

Felicia A. Guity

Felicia Guity has shattered glass ceilings across an award-winning 32-year career devoted to leading highly successful teams and driving business strategy at some of the world's top digital technology companies.

She is currently the chief operations and executive strategist with Google's Cloud organization. In that role, Guity serves as chief of staff to the vice president of systems reliability engineering, the division that ensures dependable access to the web through the Google search engine.

Guity built the foundations for her executive position with Google over the course of the 18 years she spent at Microsoft. She became the first African American woman to rise from an entry-level job to the top 1% of Microsoft's executive team as the head of worldwide channel strategy, marketing, and programs for the company's educational devices.

Prior to her promotion to that position, Guity was the general manager of worldwide channel marketing and incentives. She led Microsoft's channel marketing initiatives in collaboration with the company's regional and local manufacturing partners, field sales offices, and marketing teams.

She also served at Microsoft as general manager of account marketing and platform sales management, overseeing sales and marketing relationships with business partners including HP, Dell, Lenovo, Toshiba, Acer, Acer, Samsung, and Sony.

Before joining Microsoft, Guity was vice president of mergers and acquisition integration for Lawson Software Inc. She has also held key strategic roles with Amazon Web Services and with the North American unit of the Seattle-based Cloud computing company Citrix.

Guity is in demand as a speaker, to tell her own story and to speak about the challenges and opportunities for Black women and women generally in leadership roles. She has stressed in her own experience the need to be fearless in the face of failure—"doing things because I didn't know I couldn't" as she told an interviewer.

Among her awards and honors, Guity was included in *Black Enterprise* magazine's Top 50 Most Powerful Women in Business in 2017 and in *Savoy Magazine's* 2014 list of Most Influential Women in Corporate America. She also was named among the Top Women Executives in Advertising and Marketing by *Black Enterprise* in 2013. The marketing trade journal *Channel Reseller News* named Guity to its list of the 100 Most Powerful Women of the Channel in 2021.

She serves on the boards of several Seattle-based nonprofit organizations including Powerful Voices, which instills leadership skills in adolescent girls; We Connect the Dots, Inc., which promotes learning and career awareness in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics-related fields; and the Seattle Opera. She is also on the board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Guity earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics from the University of Michigan and a Master of Science in business administration and general management from Central Michigan University. She holds a Doctorate in Business Administration from Argosy University.

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Master of Science Data Analytics Engineering

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Hsiao-Peng Chiang	Priya Bhanudas Raul
Gauri Kishor Damle	Pulkit Saharan
Dongliang Guo	Kewei Shi
Yuyang Han	Neha Singh
Chunyan Hao	Yuan-Cheng Su
Gaohaonan He	Deepika Sundaram
Linyi Hu	Lin Tao
Hans Huray	Qiuwei Wang
Yixuan Ji	Fan Wu
Yuru Kang	Luyao Xu
Tomoki Kyotani	Junsheng Ye
Min-Yih Leu	Kwangyul Yu
Zijie Li	Yichi Zhang
Shanshan Lin	Yinglun Zhang
Siyu Liu	Youyu Zhang
Sanchana Mohankumar	Zixu Zhao

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Zifan An	Ankur Bywar
Shruthi Ananthapadmanabha	Ya-Ting Chang
Sowmya Asokan	Jiaqi Chen
M Asrar Azher	Venkat Bhanu Shravya Cherukuri
Lu Bai	Nidhi Dahiya
Yashashwini H Bhat	Xinhui Dai

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Neelam Shankar Dighe	Muxing Lin
Yian Fan	Guiyu Liu
Zhening Feng	Licong Lou
Xuemeng Gao	Huanju Lu
Yunjia Gao	Utkarsh Mahai
Ziming Gong	Yamini Malik
Preeti Gopal	Palak Mattoo
Shweta Gupta	Manisha Dashrath Nakawe
Avni Gupta	Soumya Bhaskar Nayar
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Xinchen Hu	Jinshuang Niu
Xiao Huang	Sravya Sree Ogirala
Rajni Jangir	Lin Pan
Yinwen Jiang	Alfa Saifee
Xinyu Jiang	Priya Saraf
Yifan Jiang	Rahul Shukla
Canlin Jiang	Ankit Dinesh Singh
Haotong Jin	Anupama Singh
Jaya Kalele	Ashwini Somani
Khushbu Kumari	Lakshmi Sreenilayam Santhoshkumar
Kwok Yan Lam	Xiyue Suo
Yuening Li	Shruti Sutrawe
Zhen Li	Ni Tang
Peiwen Li	Hsiao Wei Tao
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Hang Xia	Lu Zhang
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Yuhui Xiao	Shanqiang Zhang
Jiaying Xie	Ruilin Zhang
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Shaoshuai Xu	Yutong Zhen
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Donald K. Williams Jr.
Donald L. Williams
Akira Yamamura
Richard R. Yuse

HONORS AT NORTHEASTERN

Summa cum laude 3.850 to 4.000

Magna cum laude 3.700 to 3.849

Cum laude 3.500 to 3.699

Gold cord worn around neck denotes honor student.

This program is for ceremonial purposes only and is not to be considered an official confirmation of degree information. It contains only those details available prior to the event. The registrar of the university maintains the official list and records of all graduates.

