

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

Founders Day

CELEBRATION

JANUARY 31, 2024



PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies

Jennifer Militello, PhD

Program Director, MFA in Creative Writing

Procession (please stand)

Eric Goodchild

Bagpiper

Academic Procession and Mace

Debra Dunlop, BS '76, PhD, P '16, P '17

Cynthia Burns Martin, MBA, HA '22

Faculty Marshals

Welcome

Wayne F. Lesperance, Jr., DLP

President

Academic Affairs Dean's List for Fall 2023

Honoring the College's Founding

Patricia Corbett, EdD

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Conferring of Honorary Degree

President Lesperance

Trustee Lex Scourby, BA '75, MBA

Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts

Nashua, New Hampshire

Founders Day Address

Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts

Closing

Wayne F. Lesperance, Jr., DLP

President

Recessional (please stand)

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Chairman of the Board

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Eric Morgan, BA '83

Lori Sherer, BA '83, MBA

Scott Simpson, MArch

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Jeffrey K. Towle P '99

TJ Whitelaw, BA '76, MBA

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William W. Wyman, MBA

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D. Joseph Clement HA '95, P '88

Piers M. MacDonald, BA '74

John Maguire, PhD

Deborah Spring Reed, BA '60

John A. Samenfeld, BA '70

R. Peter Shapiro, Esq.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Wayne F. Lesperance, Jr., DLP | *President*

Paula Amato, DLP, CMA | *Executive Vice President and CFO*

Patricia Corbett, EdD | *Vice President of Academic Affairs*

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William Deptula, MA | *Vice President of Advancement*

James Murtha, PhD | *Senior Vice President of Academic Alliances*

David Rubin, BA | *Vice President of Information Technology*

Julie Zahn, MBA | *Special Assistant to the President*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER STAFF SERGEANT RYAN PITTS

Staff Sgt. Ryan Pitts joined the Army in 2003. He served as a radio telephone operator for the 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, and 173rd Airborne Brigade. With the 173rd, he deployed to Afghanistan twice—in 2005 and 2007. He departed the active-duty Army in 2009.

Pitts's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal with bronze clasp and two loops, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral 4 device, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Parachutists Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the Valorous Unit Award.

He currently resides in Nashua, New Hampshire, where he is in business development for the computer software industry.

FOUNDERS DAY HISTORY

New England College was founded in 1946 to serve the educational needs of the country's military men and women returning from World War II.

The celebration of Founders Day at NEC was instituted to honor the vision and leadership of the founding faculty, staff, administration, and students of the College, and is one of three major academic events during the year.

Founders Day is an opportunity to reflect on the foresight of those leaders who sought to make education accessible to a new generation and who pioneered experiential academic opportunities for students.

Seventy-eight years later, we proudly recognize and honor how that original vision continues to transform our community and the lives of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

