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79th
CONVOCATION CEREMONY
August 27, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Processional

Patrick Cheetham
Bagpiper

Academic Procession

Cynthia Burns Martin, MBA
Fran Chelland, MTS
Faculty Marshals

Welcome

Jennifer Militello, PhD
Program Director, MFA in Creative Writing

Opening Remarks

Wayne F. Lesperance, Jr., DLP
President

Board of Trustees Remarks

Lex Scourby, BA '75, MBA
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Robert A. Kilgore Faculty Award

Carrie Colbert, PhD
*Associate Professor of
Business Administration*

Student Government Remarks

Michael Barnard '25
Student Government President

Closing

Wayne F. Lesperance, Jr., DLP
President

Recessional

Patrick Cheetham
Bagpiper

ROBERT A. KILGORE FACULTY AWARD

Presented to a member of the faculty whose distinguished service to the teaching profession is recognized by students, staff, and fellow faculty members

2025 HONOREE

CARRIE COLBERT, PhD

Associate Professor of Business Administration



Dr. Carrie Colbert, Dr. C to her students, manages the marketing side of the Management Division. She teaches the majority of the marketing courses, including Advertising and Brand Promotions, Digital Media Marketing, Consumer Behavior, and Personal Selling and Customer Relationships.

By trade, Dr. Colbert is a marketing management professional with over 20 years of experience in strategic marketing, promotion development, data analysis, and marketing management. She has held senior-level positions with Valassis Communications, Dole Food Company, Symphony IRI, and The Nielsen Company. She has also worked with many CPG manufacturers such as Nestle USA, Kraft, Mission Tortillas, and Nissin Foods, along with various grocery and drug retailers (e.g., Ahold USA, Delhaize, Winn Dixie, Rite Aid, etc.).

Dr. Colbert owns and operates Doctor Colbert Consulting, a marketing management consulting company where she helps small businesses build their customer base and increase exposure.

CONVOCATION

NEC celebrates the start of each academic year with an Academic Convocation ceremony, which represents many new beginnings, new academic pursuits, new friendships, and new opportunities for students to grow as leaders and civically engaged citizens. The ceremony also welcomes first-year students as the newest members of NEC.