

CLASS OF 2023  
*Commencement*



3 JUNE 2023  
CHARLOTTE

# CONTENTS

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.

History of Northeastern University	3
Program	7
Commencement Speaker	9
Degrees in Course	10
<u>College of Professional Studies</u>	
University Senior Leadership	11
Members of the Board of Trustees, Trustees Emeriti, Honorary Trustees, and Corporators Emeriti	12
Honors at Northeastern	14

# 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**

Launched in 2011, the Charlotte campus is Northeastern's Southeast hub for its signature experiential graduate programs, solutions-oriented research, and entrepreneurship activities, with a focus on healthcare talent, health sciences innovation, and healthcare delivery equity. Anchored by the Center for Health Sciences, the Charlotte campus has built deep connections among the area's employers and civic and community organizations. The richness of these relationships has enabled Northeastern to co-create degree programs and research collaborations uniquely tailored to the Charlotte community.

## **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

Recorded: George Frederick Nandel, Water Music

## Processional

Candidates

Faculty

Platform Party led by Marshal Peg Bernhard

## Land Acknowledgment

Angela Hosking

*Regional Dean and CEO*

## National Anthem

## Welcome

Angela Hosking

*Regional Dean and CEO*

## Global Network Greeting

Mary Ludden

*Senior Vice President Global Network and Strategy*

## Presiding Provost Acknowledgment

Karl Reid

*Senior Vice Provost and Chief Inclusion Officer, Office Of The Provost*

## Student Address

Phillip Echols, CPS '23

*Doctor of Education, College of Professional Studies*

## Commencement Address

Matthew DePace, CPS '11

*Former Vice President of Community Engagement, Novant Health*

## Degrees in Course

Angela Hosking

*Regional Dean and CEO*

Dean Radhika Seshan

*College of Professional Studies*

## Conferring of Degrees

Karl Reid

*Senior Vice Provost & Chief Inclusion Officer, Office Of The Provost*

## Announcement of the Graduates

### Alumni Welcome

Antonio Boyd, CPS '22

*President and Chief Executive Officer of The Think Tank Consulting Group*

### Charge to the Graduates

Angela Hosking

*Regional Dean and CEO*

### Recessional

Platform Party led by Marshal Peg Bernard

Faculty

Graduates

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



# COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

*Commencement Speaker*

Matthew DePace

For more than 15 years, Matthew DePace has played a key role in building productive partnerships between nonprofit healthcare organizations and their communities to advance health equity and social responsibility within the healthcare system.

Most recently, DePace served as vice president of community engagement for North Carolina-based Novant Health, an integrated healthcare system of 15 medical centers and more than 1,900 physicians. In that role, he helped lead initiatives designed to improve health and expand economic opportunity throughout the region, particularly in communities struggling with chronic disparities in health and healthcare access.

Under his leadership, DePace's team developed strategies and programs aimed at reducing those disparities; for example, they forged partnerships with community institutions, such as the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, to expand equitable access to healthcare resources, and targeting Novant grants in support of grassroots efforts to overcome socioeconomic obstacles to health equity.

While at Novant, DePace also served on the board of the ONE Charlotte Health Alliance—a health equity partnership of Novant Health, the Mecklenburg County Public Health department, and Atrium Health, another major regional nonprofit healthcare provider. He worked with his board colleagues to oversee the Health Alliance's own portfolio of community-centered partnerships, such as its mobile "food pharmacies," which provide produce and other nutritious food to communities beset with food insecurity.

Before being recruited to Novant, DePace spent eight years with Northwell Health in New York—including six years as a senior regional director for community and population health. In that role, DePace helped lead community engagement efforts for Northwell's healthcare system of 23 hospitals plus an extensive outpatient footprint. DePace's team collaborated with community-based organizations on a variety of initiatives addressing broader community health needs.

Prior to joining Northwell Health, DePace worked for several nonprofit health research organizations including the Parkinson's Foundation and the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, with a range of responsibilities, from event planning and fundraising to marketing and communications.

DePace teaches courses in healthcare administration, healthcare marketing, and related fields at several universities, including Villanova University, Excelsior University, and Molloy University. He also serves as a volunteer for the World Parkinson Congress, a triennial event that provides a global forum for discussion of the latest scientific discoveries and comprehensive care practices related to Parkinson's disease.

DePace earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Marist College. He holds a Master of Science from Northeastern in project management and nonprofit management.

# COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

## *Doctor of Education*

Perry A. Culverson Jr.

Charlotte Barker Forrest

Phillip Echols

Rosalind Barnes Fowler

Samantha Renee Harris

Omega Almasi Honeywood

Matthew Travis Jacobs

Stephanie Yolanda Kirkland

Yolanda Juanita McClure

Colleen Erin O'Donnell

Teresa Renee Johnson Ramey

Tracy Threatt

## *Master of Science in Corporate and Organizational Communication*

Katie Geith

## *Master of Science in Global Studies and International Relations*

Summer Abrunza

Madison Brianne NeeSmith

Linda Genelle Alston

## *Master of Science in Legal Studies*

Komo Davis

## *Master of Science in Project Management*

Valerie Denise Autry

## *Master of Science in Regulatory Affairs for Drugs, Biologics, and Medical*

Devices Angelika Bouse

Kelsey Moylan

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Michael Armini, *Senior Vice President for External Affairs*

Kenneth W. Henderson, *Chancellor and Senior Vice President for Learning*

Mary Ludden, *Senior Vice President for Global Network and Strategic Initiatives*

Diane Nishigaya MacGillivray, *Senior Vice President for University Advancement*

Thomas Nedell, *Senior Vice President for Finance and Treasurer*

Mary B. Strother, *Senior Vice President and General Counsel*

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James R. Hackney, *School of Law*

Elizabeth Hudson, *College of Arts, Media and Design*

Beth D. Kochly, *Interim, Mills College at Northeastern University*

Elizabeth D. Mynatt, *Khoury College of Computer Sciences*

Uta G. Poiger, *College of Social Sciences and Humanities*

Carmen Sceppa, *Bowé College of Health Sciences*

Radhika Seshan, *College of Professional Studies*

Hazel Sive, *College of Science*

Emery Trahan, *Interim, D'Amore-McKim School of Business*

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Donald L. Williams  
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Richard R. Yuse

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*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.

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