

HONORS CONVOCATION
MAY 8, 2024



VaughnCollege
of aeronautics and technology

CONVOCATION SPEAKER

ELENA BUENROSTRO

Elena Buenrostro is a content creator, Part 107 licensed drone pilot, educator and the founder of Women Who Drone, an organization that inspires, educates and empowers women and girls with drone technology. Buenrostro is also an international public speaker sharing her drone knowledge at conferences and universities worldwide including the World of Drones and Robotics Congress, Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International, Federal Aviation Administration Symposium, Girl Scouts of America, Girl's Inc and Columbia University among many more. Buenrostro's work has been featured in The Washington Post, Fast Company, DJI, The Verge, FierceMitu, Drone Life and many more publications.

AWARDS

BESSIE COLEMAN AWARD

This award is given to a female graduate in an aviation related field in alignment with the namesake of this award. The recipient has an honorable grade point average of 3.5 or higher and has made significant contributions to the College.

CASEY S. JONES AWARDS

These awards are presented to graduates from each baccalaureate degree program who have attained the highest cumulative grade point average in their programs while demonstrating the professional and civic values that exemplify the mission of Vaughn College. Minimum grade point average for this award is 3.50.

FOUNDERS AWARDS

These awards are presented to graduates from each associate degree program who have attained the highest cumulative grade point average in their programs while demonstrating the professional and civic values that exemplify the mission of Vaughn College. Minimum grade point average for this award is 3.50.

ENGINEERING INNOVATION AWARD

This award is presented to a graduate who was an active participant in professional development or competition while at Vaughn College or who published or presented a paper on a new and innovative idea at a technical conference. This award seeks to honor students who have investigated innovative research projects in engineering.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARD

The highest award for a baccalaureate graduate is given to the person who has epitomized the balance of academic success with co-curricular achievements, accomplishing both an honorable grade point average of 3.5 or higher and distinguished contributions to the College.

YEAGER AWARD

This award is presented to the student(s) who have completed associate, bachelor's and master's degrees at Vaughn College. It is named in honor of General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager, who in 1947 became the first pilot to break the speed of sound.

RISE ABOVE AWARD

This award is given to the student(s) who despite facing significant obstacles, displayed resilience, maintained their enrollment and are completing their degrees on time.

AWARDS

PRESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Given in recognition of individuals who have exhibited the high standard of campus leadership. Their dedication and pursuit of excellence have inspired and elevated those around them, fostering a culture of achievement. These students are exemplars of the College's mission and core values; and have made a lasting impact on the College community. Minimum grade point average for this award is 3.00

SERVICE AWARD

This award is given in appreciation to individuals who have demonstrated commitment to leadership within the College community, clubs, and organizations. The students who receive this award have enriched campus life. Minimum grade point average for this award is 3.00

SENIOR ATHLETE AWARD

These awards are given to Vaughn College senior student-athletes who have either completed their competitive eligibility, or will be graduating in 2024, and have contributed significantly to the success of their teams.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD

This award is presented to the senior student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average.

OUTSTANDING ATHLETE AWARD

Presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the athletic program. This individual also exemplifies being a team player through performance, leadership and involvement.

VETERAN RECOGNITION

Graduating service members and those with Veteran Status will receive red, white and blue tassels to honor their service.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS

Sponsored by United Airlines, this award is presented to graduates who have completed the National Society of Leadership and Success and have had the opportunity to supplement their curricular knowledge with experiential teamwork and leadership initiatives.

HONOR CORDS

Graduates who have completed their degrees with academic honors are attired with gold, silver or bronze cords.

HONORS CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Welcome

*Dr. Paul LaVergne
Vice President
Academic Affairs*

Greetings from the President

*Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo
President*

Convocation Address

*Ms. Elena Buenrostro
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Women Who Drone*

Student Speaker

*Ms. Jewel Fletcher
Bessie Coleman
Award Recipient*

MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

*Dr. Peter Canellis
Professor*

Airport Management Program

Founders Award presented to Nikolas Singleman
Casey S. Jones Awards presented to Jalise Matthew

Airport/Airline Management Program

Casey S. Jones Award presented to Tommaso Rossi

AVIATION DEPARTMENT

*Dr. George Tracy
Professor*

Aircraft Operations Program

Founders Award presented to Farrukh Azimqulov
Casey S. Jones Award presented to Junux Chi

Aeronautical Sciences Program

Casey S. Jones Award presented to Jewel Fletcher

Aviation Maintenance Program

Casey S. Jones Award presented to Roger Velez

Aviation Maintenance Management Program

Casey S. Jones Award presented to Shuntao Pan

AVIATION TRAINING INSTITUTE

*Mr. Domenic Proscia
Vice President of Training*

Associate in Occupational Studies Program

Founders Awards presented to Kiadilmia Martinez
and Huang Chen

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

*Dr. Hossein Rahemi
Chair*

Electrical Engineering Program

Casey S. Jones Award presented to Carla Vasquez Chavez

Electronic Engineering Technology Avionics Program

Casey S. Jones Award presented to Christopher Zuna

Mechanical Engineering Program

Casey S. Jones Award presented to Marizeli Diaz

Mechanical Engineering Technology, Aeronautical Program

Casey S. Jones Award presented to Parth Patel

Mechatronic Engineering Program

Casey S. Jones Award presented to Anton DeGuzman

Engineering Innovation Award

Presented to Christopher Walker and Suraiya Nawaz

The Board of Trustees Award

Presented to Carla Vasquez Chavez

President DeVivo

Yeager Award

Presented to Narindra Maharaj

Rise Above Award

Presented to Husam Abbassi, Sadia Akhi and
Tommaso Rossi

Presidential Excellence Awards

Presented to Maria Fajardo, Mohammad Nazmus Sakib Hossain,
Chasisty Melo, Suraiya Nawaz, Tommaso Rossi
and Christopher Walker

Service Awards

Presented to Cowanjah Baltimore,
Bryan Cordero Cabral, Rachel Chin, Noah Galluzzo,
Jalise Matthew, Carlo Ovalle, Aisling O'Sullivan,
Ananya Sharma, Casseem Stephenson, Yusuf Rafi
and Mohamed Youssef

*Ms. Elaine T. White
Assistant Vice President
Student Affairs*

Senior Athlete Award

Presented to Bryan Cordero Cabral, Kevin Catalino,
Rachel Chin, Noah Galluzzo, Felopater Ghobrial,
David Lawson, Andrew Yambo Luzunaris,
Jairo Andrew Ramos, Michael Reed, Tommaso Rossi,
Benjamin Tabakovic

*Mr. Jihad Ceaser
Assistant Director
Athletics*

Scholar Athlete Award

Presented to Tommaso Rossi

Outstanding Athlete Award

Presented to Michael Reed

Presentation of Veteran Tassels

Presented to graduating service members and
those with Veteran Status

Ms. White

Presentation of National Society of Leadership and Success Recognition

Presented to Ruben Baez, Cowanjah Baltimore, Carla Vasquez Chavez,
Elijah Colon, Nilton Congo, Jairo Camilo Diaz, Maria Fajardo, Jewel Fletcher,
Josiah Cayenne Francis, Noah Galluzzo, Kyle Gibbs,
Mohammad Nazmus Sakib Hossain, Axel Jerez, Arayana Khelewan,
Alvin King, Narindra Maharaj, Kiadilmia Martinez, Jalise Matthew,
Chasisty Melo, Huzaifa Naveed, Suraiya Nawaz, Aisling O'Sullivan,
Carlo Ovalle, Akram Qriqib, Michael Ramcharan, Chanely Reynoso,
Justyn Richardson, Pablo Rivera, Tommaso Rossi, William Samaroo,
Ananya Sharma, Nicholas Sinclair, Nikolas Singleman,
Konstantinos Skouloudis, Casseem Stephenson, Jose Turcios, Jisha Varughese,
Roger Velez and Christopher Walker

Presentation of Honor Cords

Presented to Students Graduating
with Academic Honors

Dr. LaVergne

Congratulations to all of our graduates.

Graduates, please join us in the lobby
for a celebratory reception.

