



525 Falconer Street
P.O. Box 20
Jamestown, NY 14702-0020
Phone: 716.338.1000

Dear Student:

Congratulations on your graduation from JCC! The attainment of your degree or certificate represents an important milestone in your educational career, and is an event deserving of appropriate recognition.

Our upcoming commencement ceremonies provide an excellent opportunity for your family and friends, as well as college faculty and administration, to honor you. In addition, commencement is a time for you to reflect upon what you have achieved and to consider how you will use your JCC education to help you in your continued journey to career and life success.

This year's commencement speaker is Theo A. Collins. Mr. Collins earned his degree from JCC while serving six years with the Marine Corps Reserve unit based in Buffalo, where he developed and executed training plans for infantry Marines in preparation for deployment to combat zones around the world. After graduating from JCC he went to SUNY Fredonia. During his junior year, Mr. Collins was deployed to Afghanistan for 13 months. After he returned stateside, Mr. Collins completed his degree at SUNY Fredonia and graduated summa cum laude with a degree in political science. After he was discharged from the Marine Corps, Mr. Collins attended law school at Duquesne University and served as the executive producer of the film **Project 22**, an award winning documentary that raises awareness about the U.S. veteran suicide epidemic. The documentary is named for the 22 veterans who, according to estimates from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, commit suicide every day. Mr. Collins is an attorney at a law firm in Pittsburgh and is a member of the Medicinal Missions board of directors.

Acquiring an academic credential is a truly noteworthy accomplishment. In fact, few other achievements will have as much impact on your life as earning your JCC diploma; it is very fitting that you take time to celebrate your success by attending commencement. I look forward to the opportunity to congratulate you as you mark the end of your JCC experience and the beginning of the next chapter of your life.

Sincerely,

Eileen J. Goodling, Ed.D.
Vice President of Student Development

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enclosure

www.sunyjcc.edu

Sponsored by a regional board of trustees representing Cattaraugus County, Chautauqua County, and the City of Jamestown