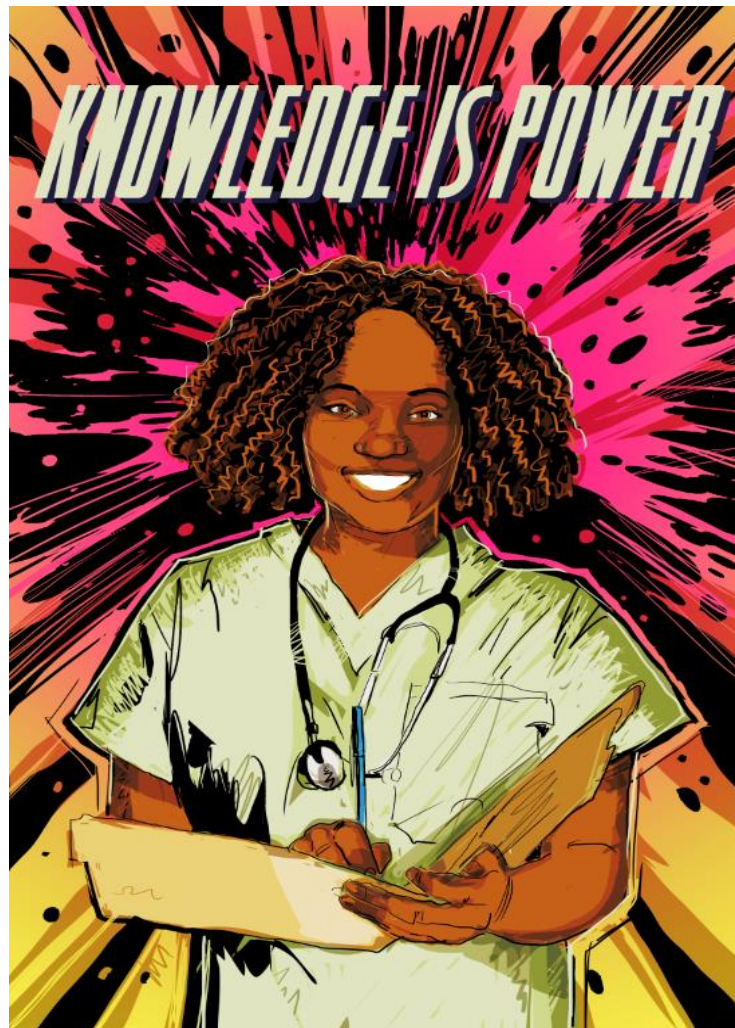




# *Forty-Seventh Annual Commencement*



*Virtual Graduation  
Wednesday, May 20, 2020  
7:00 P.M.*



May 20, 2020

Dear Graduates:

Congratulations! As adult learners, you have had the extra responsibilities of family, as well as financial and career obligations that traditional students may not have had to navigate, yet you still accomplished your goals of growing both personally and professionally. However, this year, due to the COVID-19 virus, you added on the roles of teacher, personal entertainer, therapist, and quarantine specialist. Clearly, these extraordinary times required new ways of thinking and acting to accommodate a new “normal.” On behalf of the faculty and staff at the University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center (UBEOC), I would like to let you know how proud we are that you conquered your fears and self-doubt; and overcame your struggles, trials and tribulations to succeed.

Just remember, “One of the lessons that I grew up with was to always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals.” (*Michelle Obama*). *By engaging in hard work, having faith and perseverance you did not let anyone or anything move you from your goal of success.*

Welcome to the next chapter in your life and thank you for investing your time and energy into becoming an alumnus of the Buffalo EOC. As you continue to accomplish your goals please remember us and let us know how you are doing. Once again, congratulations!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Adams".

Julius Gregg Adams, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



The State University  
of New York

Office of the Provost

State University Plaza  
Albany, New York 12246

[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

May 15, 2020

Dear Graduates:

On behalf of the State University of New York's University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD), it is my distinct pleasure to send greetings and warm regards to all students celebrating the completion of their studies from the Buffalo EOC. Most importantly, I wish to congratulate you on a job well done!

With this accomplishment, you are joining generations of learners across New York State who have completed their studies from EOCs, fully prepared to enter institutions of higher education and excel in the labor market. You have positioned yourself and your family for new opportunities, achievements and success. Pursuing advanced education and job training takes grit and perseverance in the most ideal circumstances; to have completed your program amid the turmoil of the COVID-19 pandemic is nothing short of remarkable.

To the UCAWD team, you represent hope that, with the right opportunity, lives can be transformed. Your persistence through these unprecedented times is nothing short of inspirational. We know that the EOC is the first step to a satisfying career and we are grateful to have joined you at this stage of your journey.

While social distance may separate us today, we encourage you to keep in touch with the Buffalo EOC, where you remain a member of our family long after your studies conclude. I hope you share your EOC experience with others in your community as you continue on your upward trajectory.

Sincerely,

Lisa L. McKay,

Associate Provost and Director,  
University Center for Academic and  
Workforce Development



University at Buffalo

Office of the President

May 20, 2020

Dear EOC Graduates:

On behalf of the entire University at Buffalo community, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate each of you on your graduation from the Educational Opportunity Center! Although we have never celebrated our graduates in a virtual manner before, the essence of UB's commencement tradition remains fundamentally unchanged. It is a celebration of your success as students, and a tribute to your determination to seek out the knowledge and skills to better your lives and contribute meaningfully to the world. Your graduation from the EOC marks a tremendous personal milestone and an achievement that will provide transformative opportunities for you on the journey ahead. You are valued members of our UB community, and we are delighted to recognize you for this wonderful accomplishment.

UB's commitment to academic excellence is central to our mission as a premier public research university, and it has a profound impact on the many communities we serve. If we have done our job, you are graduating with not only a wealth of disciplinary expertise, but a deep appreciation for the role and value of public service. Education is not meant for selfish gain; it is intended for the greater good. Indeed, this is a hallmark of a University at Buffalo education: that you share your enlightened viewpoint with the world, for the betterment of the world. In trying times such as these, our global society needs your inquisitiveness, your engagement and your inclusive worldview more than ever.

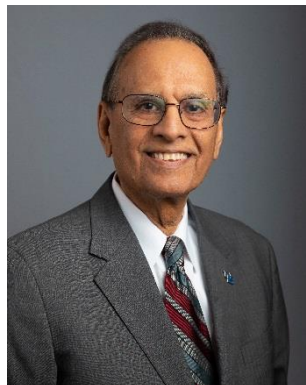
Your UB family is so proud of all that you have accomplished, and for your courage and perseverance to create new opportunities for yourself. Your achievements as EOC graduates are an inspiring reminder of what can be attained through educational opportunity. Wherever your career plans take you, I hope that the knowledge and values you have learned at the EOC will serve you well in your future endeavors.

Congratulations, again, on your graduation, and best wishes for continued success in all of the challenges and opportunities that await you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Satish K. Tripathi'.

Satish K. Tripathi  
President



May 2020

Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the entire University at Buffalo community, please accept my congratulations on your graduation from UB's Educational Opportunity Center. Reaching this milestone is a tremendous accomplishment and one that should be a source of great pride.

During your time with us, you have grown personally and intellectually and are now well positioned to pursue and achieve all of your academic and professional goals. Your perseverance, determination and commitment to your studies have brought you to this point. Enjoy this important achievement and recognize this is a foundation on which to build your future.

Congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.



A. Scott Weber  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs







**THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY**

**CRYSTAL D. PEOPLES-STOKES**  
141<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

**MAJORITY LEADER**

Dear UB EOC Class of 2020:

It would be impossible to congratulate SUNY at Buffalo's Educational Opportunity Center's (EOC) Class of 2020 without acknowledging that this is a year unlike any we could have imagined. Under normal circumstances, this would be a joyous occasion shared under the same roof with all your friends, family members, and supporters. Today we celebrate your accomplishments in a "virtual auditorium", so to speak. Today will be remembered as the day that despite the pandemic that threatens to divide us that we are more resolute than ever to celebrate your academic accomplishments throughout your time as a student of the University at Buffalo!

Obtaining a quality education is truly the vehicle to success. Now, more than ever your determination to succeed will be put to the test. As graduates, you have accomplished the first step on the road to your future. But in life as we have found out is often filled with speed bumps along the way. Do not let this stop you. This is just a "bump in the road". You will get to your destination!

I would like to commend each of you for putting forth the necessary diligence, determination, and commitment to reach this important milestone. I encourage you to reach for your dreams and follow your passion while you continue to set higher personal, educational, and career goals that reflect your learned interests and values. I urge you to remember this community that needs you now more than ever. With your help, Buffalo can overcome this challenge and be a hub for economic development and embodies a culture that prides itself on cultivating young adults. Look far and wide and follow where your path takes you, but remember you'll always have a home here!

I wish you all luck and continued blessings in all of your endeavors, may you continue to personify EOC's guiding principles of "lifelong learners who are self-directed, empowered, and committed to excellence"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes".

Honorable Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes  
Majority Leader, New York State Assembly  
141<sup>st</sup> District



THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**  
SENATOR, 63<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
STATE-NATIVE AMERICAN RELATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEES  
BANKS  
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
FINANCE  
INSURANCE  
INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY  
RULES  
SOCIAL SERVICES

□ ALBANY OFFICE:  
ROOM 708  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2426 OFFICE  
(518) 426-6851 FAX

□ DISTRICT OFFICE:  
2239 SOUTH PARK AVENUE  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14220  
(716) 826-2683 OFFICE  
(716) 826-2793 FAX

E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
KENNEDY@NYSenate.GOV

To the Class of 2020 Graduates of the University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center,

I write to personally congratulate each of you upon your graduation from the University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center. As you move into the next stage of your life and career during these unprecedented times, I know that each and every one of you will show the same dedication and commitment to improving our community and our world as you have shown throughout your tenure at the University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center.

I am truly honored to represent outstanding individuals like you as the State Senator for the 63rd District. This is only the beginning of your journey and I cannot wait to see what great things you will do for our community. Congratulations again, and warmest wishes on your commencement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Timothy" being more prominent than the last name "Kennedy".

Timothy M. Kennedy  
New York State Senator, 63rd District





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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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May 20, 2020

To the members of the Graduating Class:

I extend my sincere congratulations to this year's graduates during the Educational Opportunity Center's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Ceremony. Your commitment to pursuing academic achievement to prepare you for future opportunities is commendable.

Since my election in 2006 as Mayor of Buffalo, I have been a strong supporter of the University at Buffalo and the Educational Opportunity Center. For over forty years, the EOC has played a vital role in providing educational and vocational training for thousands of individuals seeking future employment opportunities and economic independence.

Based on so many successful outcomes, the Educational Opportunity Center is recognized as one of the most highly regarded programs of its kind in the nation. I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Byron W. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Byron W. Brown  
Mayor



## Educational Opportunity Center INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

The State University's commitment to serve underprepared students more extensively resulted in the creating in 1966, of four Urban Centers. The Centers, located in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Albany and **Buffalo**, were funded by the Governor and the New York State Legislature, to provide occupational training and college preparatory programs.

Further, extending these services in 1969, the State University created seven Cooperative College Centers, offering remedial lower division college courses for underserved populations of Syracuse, Wyandanch, Mouth Vernon, **Buffalo**, Rochester, Westchester, and Nassau.

In 1973, the Urban Centers and Cooperative Colleges merged to form the more comprehensive Educational Opportunity Centers in **Buffalo**, Rochester, Syracuse, Troy, Yonkers, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Long Island. The same year, the Schenectady Outreach Center, formerly a satellite of the Center in Troy, became a separate entity. Each of the new Centers offered vocational training, college preparation and support services as well as community services aimed at neighborhood residents.

Legislative initiatives in 1985 and 1986 brought the addition of Centers in the Bronx and Queens boroughs of New York. Also established in that year were specialized SUNY outreach and recruitment components in the Brooklyn, **Buffalo** and Rochester Centers. These efforts articulated well with the Educational Opportunity Programs on our SUNY Campuses.

**Today**, the network of Educational Opportunity Centers represents a major effort by the State University to meet the educational and vocational needs of economically disadvantaged persons. Programs are geared to grow and adapt to the changing environments in which they operate, while serving as a readily accessible first step toward the attainment of educational and/or vocational objectives and ultimate self-sufficiency.

Our **Buffalo** EOC relies on multiple community, corporate, and educational collaborations to meet the needs of our students. These collaborations open access and opportunity for students and offer significant resources, thus enabling our role in broadening access to higher education and the workforce.

Our diverse student body comprises adult aged 17 to past retirement age. Our students rely on a full complement of life experiences that enable their success in their pursuit of educational opportunity and job training.

Our students who are enrolled in vocational-technical programming are required to satisfy an externship commitment as part of their program completion requirements. In addition, all students are exposed to opportunities that encourage campus visits, participation in career fairs and job seeking related events.

In all, we have efficiently harnessed the resources of the State of New York and effectively supported the public mission of the State University of New York. Those of us who are members of the EOC community carry a deep commitment to our constituency, share pride in the work that we accomplish and are visibly committed to excellence.

Our **Buffalo** EOC has evolved into a vibrant, dynamic learning community that delivers comprehensive community-based academic and workforce development programs, wrap-around supportive services and access to further education and employment. Our Center is committed to providing educational and growth experiences that empower students to realize their dreams and turn efforts into achievements.

# **Program for Virtual Commencement**

## **Prelude**

*Pomp and Circumstance*

## **Opening of Ceremony**

Robert S. Miletich  
Interim Chair and Professor  
Department of Nuclear Medicine  
University at Buffalo

**Welcome**.....Julius Gregg Adams, Executive Director  
Educational Opportunity Center

## **Greetings**

**University at Buffalo**.....A. Scott Weber  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Keynote Speaker**.....John G. King, Jr., Ed.D., J.D.  
President and CEO of The Education Trust

## **Award Presentations**

**Presentation of Distinguished Alumni Award**.....Debra E. J. Thompson  
Associate Executive Director/  
Director of Instructional Services  
Educational Opportunity Center

**Arthur O. Eve Award**.....Debra E. J. Thompson  
Associate Executive Director/  
Director of Instructional Services  
Educational Opportunity Center

## **Student Honors**

**Presentation of Student Awards**.....Debra E. J. Thompson  
Associate Executive Director/  
Director of Instructional Services  
Educational Opportunity Center

## **Student Incentive Awards**

Central Sterilization Technician:	Janerky De La Pena Zamora
Dental Assisting Program:	Renee Riordan
English as a Second Language:	Jawahir Fadil
High School Equivalency:	Mudassir Sharief
Medical Billing and Coding:	Iliriana Egriu
Registered Medical Assistant:	Darnice Scott

**Most Improved Performance:**

Central Sterilization Technician: Lavan Lindsey  
Medical Billing and Coding: Kayla Marshall

**Dental Assisting Awards:**

Eighth District Dental Society Award: Kamisha Smith  
Erie County Dental Society Award: Lillian DeFazio  
Jackie Ronald Award for Academic Excellence and Professionalism: Ashley Foster

**Presentation of the Graduating Class**.....Julius Gregg Adams, Executive Director  
Educational Opportunity Center

**Conferral of Completion Certificates**.....A. Scott Weber  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
University at Buffalo

**Welcome from UBEOC Alumni Association**.....Margot Keysor, Administrator for Alumni Affairs  
and Student Development  
Educational Opportunity Center

**Closing Declaration**..... Robert S. Miletich  
Interim Chair and Professor  
Department of Nuclear Medicine  
University at Buffalo

**Recessional**  
*Pomp and Circumstance*

## **2019 – 2020 Faculty & Staff Roster**

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

***Dr. Julius Gregg Adams***

Elizabeth Blank, Ruby Velez

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES/BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

**Director of Budget and Administrative Services**

***Mary Lou Conroy***

Nancy Aviles, Philip Hamilton, Charles Mays, Shaf Rahman, Christina Short, Jorge Torres

### **ALUMNI AFFAIRS AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**

***Margot Keysor***

### **PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPER**

***Lynette Towns***

### **OFFICE OF EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

***Roscoe Garner***

### **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

***Frank Williams***

Leilani Chestnut-Jones

### **ADMISSIONS**

***Ciara Johnson***

Keira Grant, Anthony Miller, Eduvije Sanchez

### **CAREER PLANNING AND PLACEMENT**

Terry Patterson

### **ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

***Debra E. J. Thompson***

### **ATTAIN**

Mayra Colon-Ruiz, Cheryl Erbacher, Kevin Thomas

### **COMMUNITY AND COLLEGE CONNECTIONS**

***Oliver Glover***

### **SUPERVISOR OF COUNSELING AND ADVISEMENT**

***Anthony Funigiello***

Keisha Alston, Melissa Davis, Heidy Galan-Honrado, Kristie Kaminski

### **INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

Orinthia Baker, Tonnalee Batchelor, Michael Baugh, Shirley Bennett, Phillip Bland, Tyra Blodgett, Areta Buchner, Antwonette Burgos, Susan Camizzi, Darrell Carter, Marsha Christiano, Tasha Coble, Louella Cole, Paul Cragg, Gerald Edwards, Christine Farrow, Kyle Gorlick, Erin Graham, Jillian Hanesworth, Walter Hargrove, Elaine Hennie-Megna, Evelyn Herbert, Martin Hernik, Mary Jo Jenson, Wilhelmina Jones, Nancy Lane, Joseph Luh, Carolyn Malone, Tonya Minor, Marcia Mitrowski, Magdalena Nichols, Kenneth Norman, Alicia Parker, Kokila Parmar, Barbara Pitkin, Cynthia Rice, LaNicca Sanders, Anthony Sheppard, Marian Slaughter, Lois Smith, Mary Beth Sojka, Chelitta Spencer, Sharon Stewart, Dorothy Taylor, Kelly Thomas, Gwendolyn Triplett, Detra Trueheart, Rapheal Washington, Lawneice Williams, Phyllis Williams, Deidre Cole Woodall, Chris Yuen

## EOC Advisory Council

Ms. Mary Craig, Chairperson

**Dr. Timothy Martin Adams**  
UB/MD Surgery

**Dr. Lavonne Ansari**  
Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc.

**Chancellor Emeritus Robert Bennett**  
NYSED Board of Regents

**Ms. Carolyn Bright**  
NYS Department of Labor

**Mr. Stan Coleman**  
Appaloosa Productions, Ltd.

**Mr. Lawrence H. Cook, II**  
John R. Oishei Foundation

**Dr. Gregory A. Fabiano**  
Florida International University

**Ms. Robyn Flesher**  
1199SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund

**Dr. Ellen E. Grant, LCSW-R**  
Deputy Mayor, City of Buffalo

**Mr. Stuart L. Harper**  
Buffalo City Mission

**Reverend Dr. John T. Hilliard**  
Humboldt Parkway Baptist Church

**Walter B. Holland, Jr., D.D.S.**  
Regional Public Health Dentist

**Dr. Mara B. Huber**  
University at Buffalo

**Mr. Dale Martin**  
Alumnus

**Mr. Thomas Murphy**  
Retired, Alfred State College

**Ms. Lucinda Phillips, MS, RN**  
Retired, D'Youville College

**Ms. Nancy Preskop**  
Catholic Health

**Ms. Ann Marie Przybyl, ex officio**  
ACCES/West RAEN

**Commissioner William Renaldo**  
Buffalo Fire Department

**Ms. Bridget Russo**  
Neighborhood Health Center

**Mr. David C. Scott**  
Roswell Park Cancer Institute

**Ms. Michelle L. Urbanczyk**  
Explore & More – The Ralph Wilson's Children's Museum

**Mr. Daniel T. Vivian**  
University at Buffalo

**Mr. David Zapfel**  
Gerard Place

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## Dental Assisting Advisory Board

Dr. Roseanne Modica, Chairperson

Private Practice

**Roger Anderson, DDS**  
Private Practice

**Ms. Chiquita Archie, CDA, RDA**  
Erie County Medical Center

**Ms. Johanna Armstrong, CMA, BSN, MSED**  
Niagara Community College

**Ms. Jasmin Carson, CDA, RDA**  
Dr. Tammy Pierson

**Anthony Costanzo, DDS**  
Western New York Dental Group

**Mr. David Damiano, CDA, RDA**  
Roswell Park Cancer Institute

**Ms. Mabel Danza, CDA, RDA**  
Community Health

**Ms. Katrina Delaney, CDA, RDA**  
University at Buffalo, School of Dental Medicine

**Mary Beth Dunn, DDS**  
Private Practice

**Joseph Gambacorta, DDS**  
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine

**Mr. John Hutter, DDS**  
Western New York Dental Group

**Mr. David Leach, CDA, RDA**  
Private Practice

**Richard Lynch, DDS**  
Western New York Dental Group

**Ms. Anne Palermo**  
Public Member

**Rachael Rossito, DDS**  
Erie County Medical Center

**Ms. Ellen Ruof, CDA, RDA, BS**  
Veterans Affairs

**Ms. Jennifer Smith, CDA, RDA**  
Dr. Manny Gambacorta



## 2020 UBEOC Distinguished Alumni Award

### Ms. Marlyce Godoy

*UBEOC Class of 2011*



**"UBEOC helped me forge my career path."**

Ms. Marlyce Godoy credits the University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center (UBEOC) for her "...new beginning." Ms. Godoy was born in Belize and came to the United States when she was six years old. Although she was raised outside New York City, she decided to attend college at the University at Buffalo. She dropped out of college after becoming pregnant and raised her daughter as a single mother while receiving public assistance and working at a local Restaurant.

Upon seeing a flyer highlighting tuition free programs at the UBEOC, Ms. Godoy enrolled in the Dental Assisting program. While the UBEOC paid for her education and vocational training, she received support for transportation costs, childcare, uniforms and certification fees through a partnership between the UBEOC and the Buffalo Employment and Training Center (BETC).

Upon completion of her 300-hour clinical externship and earning her certification from the Dental Assistant National Board, Ms. Godoy was hired as a certified Dental Assistant at the WNY Dental Group, where she is still employed. Ms. Godoy's commitment to education and personal excellence led her to complete two Associate degrees, one in Dental Hygiene, from SUNY Erie. She also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Career and Technical Education from Buffalo State College, with an overall GPA of 3.97. During her educational program she returned to UBEOC to complete her student teaching requirements while mentoring minority students in the program. Ms. Godoy completed these academic accomplishments at the same time she was raising her daughter as a single parent. In 2018, Ms. Godoy received a Cultural Diversity Graduate Fellowship from SUNY Buffalo State College, which covered full tuition as a Graduate Assistant. Ms. Godoy completed her Master of Science degree in CTE with an overall GPA of 4.0.

Ms. Godoy is an Assistant Professor/Clinical Instructor in the Dental Hygiene program at SUNY Erie, and proudly serves as President of the Buffalo Chapter of the American Dental Hygienists Association. She is currently researching doctoral programs and scholarships, and plans to transition from the clinical setting to education once she has completed a doctoral degree. Her community commitment is reflected through her volunteer work with the YMCA, Buffalo Public Schools and Niagara County Schools where she has participated in Healthy Kids Days, Dental Career Fairs and Breast Cancer Awareness events. In addition, she participates in the following nonprofit organizations, Brown Girl, RDH and MOCHA (which supports young minority women in their quest to become successful in their lives and careers).

Ms. Godoy's dedication to her community, personal professional growth and development, and passion to help others was precipitated by the many obstacles she experienced in her own life as a single parent, full-time student and breadwinner.

## **FRIEND OF THE EOC AWARD 2019 – 2020**

The **Friend of the EOC Award** is presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated keen understanding and outstanding support of the mission of the University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center, our student body, and the community we serve. This year's recipient of the Friend of the EOC Award is Jostens, Inc.

Jostens is an American manufacturer of memorabilia. The company is primarily known for its production of yearbooks and class rings for various high schools and colleges as well as championship rings for sports. Jostens provides products, programs and services that help celebrate moments that matter. Their mission is to Capture. Celebrate. Inspire. They extend their mission to working with valued suppliers to partner with them to provide keepsakes designed to help consumers capture and celebrate moments that matter, and inspire them for a lifetime.

Over the past several years, Jostens, under the guidance of Mr. Warren Crysler, Territory sales Representative, donated caps, gowns, and honor cords that our students have worn at commencement, and they asked our students to keep them as keepsakes of their graduation. This donation allowed the EOC to redirect resources to programs and services that are structured to adapt to the needs of our students as well as the demands of our community.

### **This Year's Recipients**



and  
Mr. Warren Crysler

***Congratulations and thank you!***

## FRIEND OF THE EOC Award Past Recipients

1974	Ms. Lorna Arrington				Mr. Andrew Schuler
1975	In Memory of Mr. Donald Ramsey, Sr.	2002	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Mr. Michael Reda	2012	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Ms. Colleen Cummings
1976	Dr. Henry Richards				
1977	Assemblyman Arthur O. Eve	2003	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Mr. Louis Zicari		<b>Certificate of Appreciation</b> Tami Hollie-McGee
1978	Mr. William Hassett				
1979	Mr. Joe Lentini				
1980	Judge Barbara Sims		<b>Friend of EOC Industry Award</b> Mr. Daniel Boody	2013	<b>Friend of EOC Corporate Award</b> Mr. Frank E. Merriweather, III II-Nisa Banks
1981	Ms. Sylvia Moye				
1982	Ms. Barbara Banks				
1983	Mr. Daniel O'Connell	2004	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Mr. H. McCarthy Gipson Dr. Mary H. Gresham	2014	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Michael L. Glick, Dean University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine
1985	Mr. Freddie Patrick				
	Mr. James Logan		<b>Certificate of Appreciation</b> Mr. Donnell G. Mueller Mr. Robert Huggins		
1986	Ms. Patricia Hoebel				William M. Feagans, Professor University at Buffalo Oral Medicine
1987	Ms. Sinette Winfield				
1988	Mr. Archie Hunter				
1989	Mr. Manning Fogan				
1990	Commissioner Karen Schimke				
1991	Mr. George McCoy	2005	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Ms. Mary Craig		
1992	Dr. Arnold Lubin				
1993	Tops Friendly Market				
1994	Dr. D. Bruce Johnstone	2006	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Mr. Dale Martin	2015	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> David C. Scott, Director Diversity & Inclusion Roswell Park Cancer Institute
1995	Mr. Jacky Mooney				
1996	Independent Health Mr. James P. Davis, Esq. Wegmans	2007	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Mr. Frank DeCarlo		
1997	Rev. William Gillison Mr. Stanley Malkinski (Posthumously Awarded)	2008	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> The Honorable Crystal D. Peoples	2016	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Joseph E. Gambacorta, DDS Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs – Dental School University at Buffalo
1998	Ms. Elaine Todd				
1999	Mr. Gerard Irving	2009	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Mr. Vijay Macwan		
2000	<b>Friend of EOC Corporate Award</b> Ms. Pat DeAeth Ms. Kim Evans Ms. Doreen Moscato Ms. Karen Synor Ms. Veronica Thomas		<b>Certification of Appreciation</b> Mr. James (Beau) Willis Ms. Scott D. Nostaja	2017	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> St. Luke's Mission of Mercy
	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Mr. Stephen B. Colombo	2010	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Dr. Marnie LaVigne	2018	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Kevin G. Smith, Deputy Commissioner NYS Education Department
	<b>Special Recognition</b> Mr. Richard Noll		<b>Certification of Appreciation</b> Ms. Melissa Hagen Ms. Renata M. Bator	2019	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Ann Marie Przybyl, Director Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES), West Regional Adult Education Network (RAEN)
2001	<b>Friend of EOC Corporate Award</b> Ms. Diane Welch	2011	<b>Friend of EOC Corporate Award</b> Mr. Gary R. Miller		
	<b>Friend of EOC Award</b> Dr. Donald Jacobs		<b>Certificate of Appreciation</b> Mr. Eric Sweet		

## 2020 The Arthur O. Eve Education and Community Service Award

This recognition honors the legacy of Mr. Arthur O. Eve and is presented to a current University at Buffalo EOC (UBEOC) student or alumnus/alumna who demonstrates leadership, advocacy, community service, and/or commitment to education. Known for his work with “the least, the last and the lost members” of our community, Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve served in the New York State Assembly for 35 years. In 1967, as a freshman Assemblyman, Mr. Eve put into action the principles of access and opportunity to higher education by developing an appropriations bill that gave birth to the SEEK/Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). He continued to spearhead legislative efforts to open the doors to education, including the legislation that helped launch the Educational Opportunity Centers. In recognition of Mr. Eve’s tireless efforts to make educational attainment a reality for all and his life attributes of leadership, advocacy, community service, and unwavering commitment to education, the UBEOC established the Arthur O. Eve Education and Community Service Award.

### Mr. Ahmed Saleh *UBEOC Class of 1998*



***“EOC gave me the confidence to seek more opportunities offered by the United States.”***

In 1993, Mr. Ahmed Saleh escaped Eritrea in Eastern Africa at the age 18. With the assistance of a retired immigration lawyer from the University at Buffalo School of Law, and sponsorship of Vive La Casa (an organization that assists those seeking asylum in the United States or Canada due to the inability to return to their homeland), he arrived alone in the United States speaking very little English. Mr. Saleh’s resolve and courage to build a better life for himself, was precipitated by the death of his father during his country’s civil war and the passing of his mother.

From 1993-1997, Mr. Saleh worked numerous jobs to support himself, including working as a cashier at a corner store, and then as a driver for UPS. In 1997, he enrolled in the English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program at the Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center. Mr. Saleh stated *“I needed to move further ahead. EOC teachers and counselors showed me the way and helped me explore what was out there”*.

Mr. Saleh, an African immigrant worked his way through business school, and established Mandela Market in 2007. By opening his market, he made a positive impact on the lives of Buffalonians living in a federally recognized “food desert” on the city’s east side where current options were not accessible for the neighborhood. The market’s success led to an expansion in 2012 and a second location opened in 2018. Mr. Saleh’s work was further recognized when he received funding from the East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund to expand one of his stores. His was one of nine projects identified to receive funding from this initiative to spark revitalization of Buffalo’s East Side through investments in the four main north-south commercial corridors: Michigan, Jefferson, Fillmore and Bailey avenues.

As the owner of two Mandela Markets, Mr. Saleh is helping to alleviate food insecurity and making it easier for Buffalo residents to access fresh fruits and vegetables. Mr. Saleh honors the legacy of Nelson Mandela, South African anti-apartheid fighter, as he lives by his favorite quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; *“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”*

Mr. Saleh graduated from SUNY ERIE (formerly Erie Community College) and earned a bachelor’s degree in computer science along with an entrepreneurial certificate from Buffalo State College. He became a citizen in 2001 and is married with three children. As a community leader and social activist, Mr. Saleh has used his Markets to support families in the community, mentor area youth, act as a role model and provide internship and employment opportunities to 11 – 12 EOC students, paying his personal success forward by showing others a way to succeed.

# **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS**

## **2019 – 2020**

*The following students have achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or better*

Ahmed, Shima	Edwards, Arianna	Khan, Rayhan	Parsons, Rickey
Alaku, Obiamaka	Egriu, Iliriana	Khanom, Afroja	Parvin, Shahena
Albufrqdy, Inam	Eltaher, Mossab	Khanum, Amena	Pwint, Chu
Alkarkhi, Afyaa	Esther, Tu	Khuramzai, Shah	Radford, Shawn
Alnounou, Dalia	Evans, Carleshia	Kozell, Kimberly	Rajia, Sultana
Alobaid, Hamzeh	Fadil, Jawahir	Lamidi, Risikat	Ratnam, Sooriyakala
Alom, Tasnim	Fadil, Shroq	Lang-Pritchett, Kristie	Ray, Twun
Alsharei, Riham	Farmer, Kierre	Lelonek, Haley	Rehman, Abdul
Alston-Brewer, Tonia	Feliz, Nicole	Leonard, Shenisha	Reyes, Onayka
Anderson, Natercia	Fishir, Sana	Lian, Jack	Robinson, Mariah
Archer, Ay'anna	Gibson, Monifah	Lindsey, Lavan	Santiago, Amanda
Aung, Arzarni	Green, Ketoria	Lopez-Abad, Edgar	Santiago, Christine
Bailey, Maleik	Gurung, Shreejana	Mack Moore, Lakia	Schutt, Josiah
Baker, Felicia	Hall, Imani	Mancini, Angela	Sharieff, Mudassir
Barakzai, Laili	Hardy, Angela	Maslii, Yana	Sharieff, Samira
Brooks, Devone	Harper, Michael	Mbilizi, Aema	Shepard, Tammy Lee
Brown, Fantayzia	Hassan, Anisa	McClendon, Unique	Soto, Donald
Bryant, Andasha	Hassan, Sadijah	Mmbamba, Ause	St John, Shakera-Tyce
Buscanpell, Alejandrina	Hassoon, Fatimah	Mohamud, Maryan	Theodore, Angeline
Campbell, Rudy	Hazhiu, Blerina	Mosier, Michelle	Theophile, Kahfie
Celotto, Maria	Irafasha, Louise	Mu, Eh Ta	Theophile, Sifa
Consonni, Fabio	James, Romeo	Muhammad, Amirah	Tun, Ei
Conyer, Tiffany	Johnson, Chantell	Musa, Salaheldeen	Tyler, Porscha
Cook, April	Johnson-Baldon, Melissa	Muttaher, Huda	Vazquez, Olga
Daniels, Shaquawn	Jones, Alexander	Njuguna, Laban	Vazquez, Rosemary
Davenport, Rodnika	Kahsay, Nahom	Nshimirimana, Marie	Velez, Noel
De La Pena Zamora, Janerky	Kampire, Beata	Ocampo Galeano, Gloria	Washington, Bianca
Dowell, Jayla	Khalef, Haifa	Palacios, Silka	Wood-Orr, Karen



**Congratulations to the students who passed  
Microsoft Office Specialist Certifications  
and  
Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA)**

Maleik Bailey, Microsoft Excel 2016

Christine Bork, Microsoft Office Word 2016

Mayra Colon-Ruiz, Microsoft Office Excel 2016, Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2016

Sandra Fischer, Microsoft Office Word, 2016

Ryan Franco, Microsoft Office Excel 2016, Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2016

Sabrina Haynie-Young, Microsoft Office Word 2016

Kenneth Heavern, Microsoft Office Excel 2016

Michael Juby, Microsoft Office Word 2016

Barbara Mazurkiewicz, Microsoft Office Word 2016

Doreen M. McClain, Microsoft Office Outlook 2016

Jieun Park – MTA: Software Development Fundamentals, Networking Fundamentals,  
Security Fundamentals

John Platten, Microsoft Office Word 2016, Microsoft Office Excel 2016, Microsoft Office Outlook 2016

Dawn Thomas, Microsoft Office Excel 2016, Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2016

Kevin Thomas, Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2016

Liza Uddin, Microsoft Office Word 2016, Microsoft Office Excel 2016, Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2016

Rosemary Watson, Microsoft Office Word 2016

John Weiss, Jr., Microsoft Office Excel 2016

## ACADEMIC

### ACADEMIC REVIEW

Allen, Kendra  
Alnounou, Dalia  
Bell, Erinn  
Briscoe, Nicole  
Cook, Deondra  
Fadil, Shroq  
Figueroa, Valerie  
Fishir, Sana  
Garner, Suzetta  
Gray, Robin  
Gurung, Shreejana  
Harper, Michael  
Hassan, Sadijah  
Johnson-Baldon, Melissa  
Khanom, Afroja  
Lang-Pritchett, Kristie  
Lee, Mariah  
Lord, Mary  
Love, Louise  
Mattina, Gabriella  
Mazurkiewicz, Elizabeth  
McCollum, Mia  
Mmbamba, Ause  
Mohamud, Maryan  
Morrow, Antoinette  
Njuguna, Laban  
Ray, Twun

Rehman, Abdul  
Robbins, Andrea  
Scarbrough, Tijuana  
Schutt, Josiah  
Sharieff, Samira  
Shepard, Tammy Lee  
Shropshire, Aleisha  
Soto, Donald  
St. John, Shakera-Tyice  
Theodore, Angeline  
Theophile, Kahfie  
Uwase, Clarisse  
Volk, Lisa  
Watkins, Amani  
White, Brittani  
Wylie, Jillian

### COLLEGE PREPARATION

Afroz, Faria  
Alobaid, Hamzeh  
Angeldekao, Keilai  
Archer, Ay'anna  
Barton, Courtney  
Blount, Zachary  
Brown, Fantayzia  
Campbell, Rudy  
Chowdhury, Sumaiya  
Colvin, Diamond  
Elhalawany, Nadya  
Green, Ketoria

Hill, Carl  
Holody-Gaiek, Clair  
James, Romeo  
Jamiean, Huriyyah  
Jat, Salman  
Krehbiel, Isabella  
Marshall, Angel  
McIlwain, Jayden  
Mim, Fatematung  
Mingo, Ashley  
Mumu, Miftahul  
Parsons, Rickey  
Pena-Batista, John  
Perry, Shayonna  
Phelps, Sabriah  
Rampado, Tyler  
Robinson, Ronique  
Ross, Rachel  
Sayeeduddin, Mursalin  
Shahid, Raiyan  
Solomon, Christian  
Solomon, Kiersten  
Solomon, Madison  
Solomon, Morgan  
Turner, Xaiei  
Wafford, Alyssa  
Worth, Savannah  
Zeigler, Nathan  
Zhou, Anna

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND  
LANGUAGE (ADVANCED)**

Barakzai, Laili  
Buscanpell, Alejandrina  
Consonni, Fabio  
Eltaher, Mossab  
Esther, Tu  
Fadil, Jawahir  
Hassoon, Fatimah  
Haxhiu, Blerina  
Kahsay, Nahom  
Kampire, Beata  
Khalef, Haifa  
Khan, Rayhan  
Khuramzai, Shah  
Lamidi, Risikat  
Lian, Jack  
Lopez-Abad, Edgar  
Mahamaud, Abdulahi  
Maslii, Yana  
Musa, Salaheldeen  
Muttaher, Huda  
Ocampo Galeano, Gloria  
Pwint, Chu  
Rajia, Sultana  
Ratnam, Sooriyakala  
Reyes, Onayka  
Theophile, Sifa  
Tun, Ei  
Vazquez, Olga

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND  
LANGUAGE (BASIC)**

Ahmed, Shima  
Albufrqdy, Inam  
Alkarkhi, Afyaa  
Alsharei, Riham  
Aung, Arzarni  
Hassan, Anisa  
Irafasha, Louise  
Khanum, Amena  
Mbilizi, Aema  
Nshimirimana, Marie  
Parvin, Shahena

**HIGH SCHOOL  
EQUIVALENCY (HSE)**

Alom, Tasnim  
Fishir, Sana  
Jones, Alexander  
Lelonek, Haley  
Mack Moore, Lakia  
Mu, Eh Ta  
Nieves, Sara  
Radford, Shawn  
Ransom, Karimah  
Rehman, Abdul  
Sharieff, Mudassir  
Soto, Donald  
Soto, Dwight

**ALLIED HEALTH****CENTRAL STERILIZATION  
TECHNICIAN**

Alaku, Obiamaka  
Anderson, Natercia  
Bailey, Maleik  
Baker, Felicia  
Bell, Erinn  
Brooks, Devone  
Bryant, Andasha  
Celotto, Maria  
Chiles, Sabriena  
Conyer, Tiffany  
Daniels, Shaquawn  
Davenport, Rodnika  
De La Pena Zamora, Janerky  
Dowell, Jayla  
Edwards, Arianna  
Evans, Carleshia  
Farmer, Kierre  
Feliz, Nicole  
Gibson, Monifah  
Hall, Imani  
Johnson, Chanitell  
Kozell, Kimberly  
Lang-Pritchett, Kristie  
Leonard, Shenisha  
Lindsey, Lavan  
Mancini, Angela  
May, Keyahnna

McClendon, Unique

Mohl, Megan

Mosier, Michelle

Muhammad, Amirah

Payne, Takishiana

Ray, Twun

Reed, Irma

Robinson, Mariah

Santiago, Christine

Shropshire, Aleisha

Tyler, Porscha

Vazquez, Rosemary

Washington, Bianca

Wood-Orr, Karen

### **DENTAL ASSISTING**

Arroyo Aquino, Chaneliz

DeFazio, Lillian

Dudziak, Kaitlyn

Fadel, Sameirah

Foster, Ashley

Mack, Lechee

Mesch, Halie

Millicent, Chassadey

Morley, Jordyn

Parker, Amiah Mone

Riordan, Renee

Rivera, Selina

Smith, Kamisha

Sohail, Ahmad

### **MEDICAL BILLING & CODING**

Alston-Brewer, Tonia

Cook, April

Egriu, Iliriana

Gurung, Shreejana

Hardy, Angela

Harper, Michael

Johnson-Baldon, Melissa

Marshall, Kayla

Palacios, Silka

Santiago, Amanda

Spellman, Cherie

Velez, Noel

### **REGISTERED MEDICAL ASSISTANT**

Alexander, Brandi

Amos, Beverly

Garcia, Janaliz

Gurung, Ganga

Hamm, Gail

John, Eldena

Lee, Mariah

Love, Louise

Mathis, Lanise

Nottingham, Jewel

Pearson, Niesha

Rai, Januka

Scott, Darniece

Shepard, Tammy Lee

St. John, Shakera-Tyce

Uwase, Clarisse

Williams, Erica

Wright, Syretta

### ***This Journal is not an official graduation list.***

*While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this Commencement Program, printing deadlines may result in omission of some names and use of names of persons not completing graduation requirements as intended. This printed program, therefore, should not be used to determine a student's academic status.*



May 20, 2020

**You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. — Dr. Seuss**

Dear “UBEOC ALUMNI!”

You all used the brains in your head when you steered your feet to the Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center. You entrusted EOC to help you forge a path that would lead you in a new direction. Tonight’s graduation reflects your steadfast commitment to stay on course. *Congratulations!*

While you celebrate your accomplishments this evening, EOC administrators, faculty and staff encourage you to keep 555 Ellicott Street on your route as you continue to travel. As Alumni, the services of the Admissions, College Connections, Career Services and Counseling offices will always be available to you. The Alumni Affairs Office is your connection to EOC.

The ways you can stay connected are many. Keep in touch via the **Alumni link on the UBEOC website** [www.buffalo.edu/eoc](http://www.buffalo.edu/eoc). Ensure that Alumni Affairs has your current email address so you can receive Center news and invitations to events, Alumni updates and the Alumni newsletter (*The Affiliate*) directly to your email, via the **Alumni Listserv**. “Friend” us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/buffaloeducational.opportunitycenter](https://www.facebook.com/buffaloeducational.opportunitycenter).

Participate in numerous professional, social and community service events held at EOC including *Alumni workshops, Movie Night, the annual Strengthening Families Celebration, Men’s Conference, Women’s Conference and job fairs*. Consider being an **Ambassador of EOC** and assist in recruiting new students at *Juneteenth* etc. Attend the annual **Student and Alumni Honors and Awards Recognition Dinner** and network with fellow Alumni.

Congratulations again! Continue to use the “brains in your head” and keep those “feet in your shoes” as you travel life’s journey. EOC will always be here to help guide you towards your next destination.

Margot Barrett Keysor  
Administrator, Alumni Affairs and Student Development  
716.645.1908  
[keysor@buffalo.edu](mailto:keysor@buffalo.edu)





***CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!***  
***Welcome to Alumni Affairs.***

**Contact the *Office of Alumni Affairs and Student Development* to see what services and opportunities are trending for UBEOC Alumni!**

**Are you a UBEOC graduate or do you know a UBEOC graduate?**



**UBEOC ALUMNI AWARDS and RECOGNITION RECEPTION May 2019**

Margot Barrett Keysor, Administrator Alumni Affairs and Student Development  
716.645.1908 [keysor@buffalo.edu](mailto:keysor@buffalo.edu) [www.buffalo.edu/eoc](http://www.buffalo.edu/eoc)

***UBEOC knew you then. We'd like to know you ... NOW.***