



UNIVERSITY OF
CHARLESTON

SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP

A large, faint watermark of the University of Charleston seal is visible in the background. The seal is circular and contains the text 'UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON' around the top edge, 'VERITAS' at the top, 'BERABIT' at the bottom, and '1888' at the very bottom. The central part of the seal depicts a building with columns and a sunburst above it.

Coining &
HOODING
Ceremony

Friday, May 1, 2026 | 4:00 p.m.

Geary Auditorium, Riggleman Hall

SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP
Undergraduate Coining &
Graduate Hooding Ceremony

Processional Leader Dr. Ruth Wylie
Professor, Doctor of Executive Leadership

Welcome Dr. Kristen Dugan
Dean, School of Leadership

— COINING CEREMONY —

Introduction of Undergraduate Speakers Dr. Sarah Hess
Director of Academic and Military Partnerships;
Director, Workforce Leadership program

History of Coining and Roll Call of Undergraduate Students Dr. Bill Minear
Leadership Faculty

Coining of Undergraduate Students Dr. John Barnette
Professor Emeritus

— HOODING CEREMONY —

Introduction of Graduate Speakers Dr. Sarah Hess

Hooding of Graduate Students Dr. Bill Minear

Introduction of Doctoral Speaker Dr. Jeffery Harvey
Director, Doctor of Executive Leadership program

Hooding of Doctoral Students Dr. Bill Minear

—THE CHALLENGE COIN—

A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion, bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members. The challenge coin has been an American tradition for a century, meant to instill unit pride, improve esprit de corps, reward hard work and excellence, and as a recognition of special achievement. The coins represent anything from a small unit to the offices of top leaders. There are also coins made for special events, anniversaries, and military and nonmilitary leaders. Many individuals proudly display challenge coins at their desks or homes, showing off their many accomplishments. Some say the exchanging of challenge coins dates to World War I, where mementos were given to high achievers, hard workers, and individuals of excellent character. At the University of Charleston, we pride ourselves on productive work, enlightened living and community involvement. Tonight, we would like to recognize those students who exemplify these characteristics in the School of Leadership's undergraduate curriculum by completing their degrees.

—THE HOODING CEREMONY—

The hooding ceremony confers a special recognition upon graduates receiving master's or doctoral degrees. The hooding originated in European universities in the 11th or 12th century and was introduced to distinguished graduating students as they began their academic careers. As hooded robes were often worn for warmth and practical uniform for scholars, over time the robes became largely symbolic. Universities added colors to the robes to differentiate students by their academic majors, and the hoods later became detached ornaments, presented to graduates as part of the commencement ceremony. Hoods are still used today to represent a commitment to a scholarly life. While modern day undergraduates wear robes and caps, those with master's or doctorate degrees are presented with hoods to show their continued pursuit of knowledge. Such hoods are an expression of tradition and are used to communicate the wearer's school, degree, and field of study for the rest of their lives.



— FACULTY & STAFF —

Dr. Kristen Dugan
Dean, School of Leadership

Dr. John Barnette, MG(Ret)
*Professor Emeritus,
Doctor of Executive Leadership*

Dr. Adam Beatty
*Director, Undergraduate and
Graduate Cybersecurity programs*

Dr. Joan Clark
Professor, Doctor of Executive Leadership

Mr. Anthony Giaimo
*Associate Professor,
Director, Criminal Justice Leadership*

Dr. Jeffery Harvey
Director, Doctor of Executive Leadership

Dr. Sarah Hess
*Director of Military and Academic Partnerships,
Director, Associate of Science in
Workforce Leadership program*

Dr. Andree Koehler
*Associate Professor,
Doctor of Executive Leadership*

Dr. Calvin Lathan
Professor, Strategic and Executive Leadership

Dr. Matthew Lonam
*Adjunct Faculty,
Strategic and Executive Leadership*

Dr. William A. Minear II
Adjunct Faculty, Leadership

Dr. Jenny Mae Pridemore
Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Leadership

Dr. Dale Retzlaff
Associate Professor, Undergraduate Leadership

Dr. Doug White
Professor, Doctor of Executive Leadership

Dr. Ruth Wylie
Professor, Doctor of Executive Leadership

— COMMENCEMENT —

Saturday, May 2, 2026 | 10 a.m.

Russell & Martha Wehrle Innovation Center, University of Charleston