Jefferson College Celebrates 2012 Commencement

Dr. Nathaniel L. Bishop presided over the Jefferson College of Health Sciences' (JCHS) 2012 Spring Commencement at the Roanoke Civic Center held Friday, May 11. The President presented 167 graduates with their Master's, Bachelor's and Associate Degrees in Allied Health Sciences academic programs. The Commencement Address was delivered by The Honorable Laura W. Fornash, secretary of education for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As a member of the Governor's Cabinet, the secretary assists the Governor in the development and implementation of the state's education policy.

Following Secretary Fornash was Darlene Arrington McGeorge of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program, who was chosen to deliver the graduate student remarks. McGeorge spoke of the love and support she received from her family and beyond, and noted that she is the first in her family to graduate from college. She also told of those whom inspired her to pursue nursing several years ago.

McGeorge said she chose the JCHS MSN Program because it provided her with the opportunity to earn a master's degree in just two years while she continued to work. She chose the Nursing Systems Management track, which prepares students in leadership and management. Ms. McGeorge is a Registered Nurse currently working in the Cardiac Care Unit at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

After McGeorge, MaryAnn M. DeHaven spoke on behalf of the undergraduate students. DeHaven was a student in the Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy Program and plans to pursue a Masters degree in Respiratory Leadership at Northeastern while working locally.

This ceremony also marked the College's 30th anniversary as a degree granting college and nearly a century in healthcare education. While JCHS can trace its roots back to schools founded as early as 1914, the College entered its modern iteration in 1982 when it was granted the right to offer degree programs by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. That year, the first associate level students were admitted into the Nursing and Respiratory Care programs.

The College now welcomes approximately 1,100 students to campus this fall in 14 degree programs. The graduate programs are Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Physician Assistant along with undergraduate degree programs in Biomedical Sciences, Emergency Services (Fire and EMS), Health & Exercise Science, Healthcare Management, Health Psychology, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapy Assistant, Respiratory Therapy and the Medical Laboratory Science Certificate Program.

The College is located at Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital in downtown Roanoke at the intersection of Elm Avenue and Jefferson Street. The building was renovated in 2010 by Carilion Clinic to create new classrooms, laboratories, offices and student study areas that cater to the students learning to be tomorrow's healthcare leaders.

Learn more about JCHS online at www.jchs.edu.

We must first care about ourselves before we can care about the world. — Ron Rathbun