

53RD

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT

*School of
Behavioral Sciences*

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

Liberty Arena

May 14, 2026 | 2 p.m.

*“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a
workman that has nothing to be ashamed of,
rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

2 TIMOTHY 2:15 (JUB)



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MESSAGE *from the* DEAN

Dear Graduates,

2 Timothy 2:15 (JUB) tells us, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that has nothing to be ashamed of, rightly dividing the word of truth.” That was and is our aspiration for you: to be true scholars of the knowledge God has given us access to and to honor the Lord with our work.

You are hereby charged to go out as social workers, counselors, or psychologists to practice professionally and ethically — and, above all, to honor your Savior by the way you interact with people. I pray the Lord would give you wisdom and courage as you take your next steps. God bless you!

Dr. Kenyon C. Knapp

Dean



LIST *of* AWARDS

COUNSELOR EDUCATION & FAMILY STUDIES

Ph.D. CEFS Professional Excellence Award

Presented by Dr. Holly Johnson
*Chair of Counselor Education &
Family Studies (Online)*

PSYCHOLOGY

Ph.D. Psychology Student of the Year Award

Presented by Dr. Rachel Piferi
Chair of Psychology (Online)

Psy.D. Professional Excellence Award

Presented by Dr. Kevin Conner
Chair of Psychology (Residential)

COMMUNITY CARE & COUNSELING

Ed.D. EDCO Professional Excellence Award

Presented by Dr. Whitney Buckles
Chair of Community Care & Counseling

Servant's Heart Award

Presented by Dr. Whitney Buckles
Chair of Community Care & Counseling



ORDER *of* CEREMONY

Welcome **Dr. Kenyon C. Knapp**
Dean

Invocation **Dr. Rachel Piferi**
Chair of Psychology (Online)

Student Awards Presentation

Doctoral Hooding Ceremony
Presentation of Degrees

Benediction **Dr. Jeff Boatner**
Associate Dean

