



LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT

Helms School of Government

LIBERTY MULTIPURPOSE CENTER

May 11, 2023 | 6 p.m.

May 13, 2023 | 10 a.m.

MESSAGE *from* THE DEAN

On behalf of the faculty and staff here at the Helms School of Government, congratulations on successfully finishing the race! It has been my privilege to serve you as the dean for the Helms School of Government, and we are excited for you and hopeful for your future. The Helms School of Government is sending you into a world that desperately needs you!

Our mission here at Liberty is to equip you to be Christ-centered leaders in the public arena. With the training you have received, you will leave Liberty not only with knowledge in your various disciplines but also with the wisdom that comes from a right relationship with the Great Lawgiver Himself.

This is a wonderful milestone in your lives, and we hope that you will take the time to celebrate it with all who have encouraged you along the way. You have earned the right to be proud of what you have accomplished here at Liberty University. After the celebration, we look forward to the great things you will do. We thank you for allowing us to pour into your lives so that you may be a powerful influence for good in the lives of others. The Helms School of Government happily bestows upon you the mantle of statesmanship, confident in the knowledge that you will wear it well.

In Christ,

Robert Hurt | *Dean*

ORDER *of* CEREMONY

Welcome	Dr. Joel Cox
Invocation	Dr. Joel Cox
National Anthem	Gracelyn Marie Hedrick
Pledge of Allegiance	Cadet Seth Allen Leonard, U.S. Army
Welcome and Charge to the Graduates	Dean Robert Hurt
Awards Recognition	Dr. Joel Cox and Dr. Jason Ross
Presentation of Degrees	Dean Robert Hurt
Presentation of the Class of 2023	Dr. Joel Cox
Benediction	Dr. Jason Ross

LIST of AWARDS

Jesse Helms Award

The Senator Jesse Helms Award recognizes students who, by their commitment to Christian principles, conservative ideals, a strong work ethic, and statesmanship, honor the legacy of Senator Jesse Helms.

John Quincy Adams International Relations Award

The John Quincy Adams Award recognizes the International Politics & Policy students who, by their commitment to international awareness, academic excellence, and virtuous statesmanship, reflect the example of John Quincy Adams, whose service as a U.S. senator from Massachusetts and one of America's foremost diplomats and influential secretaries of state led to his election as the sixth president of the United States and a notable post-presidency as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ronald S. Godwin Award

Named after the founding dean of the Helms School of Government, this award recognizes students for their accomplishments and distinguished activities outside the classroom, as well as their involvement in important political issues.

G. Howard Gregory Award

The G. Howard Gregory Award recognizes students who exemplify a commitment to duty, honor, and morality, and who demonstrate professionalism and an assiduous approach to the study of criminal justice.

Nathan Hale Award

The Nathan Hale Award is presented to two students who best exemplify the courageous spirit, character, and dedication of our nation's first spy. At only 21 years old and facing execution by the British, Nathan Hale boldly declared, "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country."

The Patrick Henry Awards

The Patrick Henry Leadership and Competition awards are given to select seniors who have received acceptance to ABA-accredited law schools. The award recognizes students who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership within the legal studies arena, and dedication to the principles of life, liberty, duty, and honor, all while exhibiting the fruit of a love for Christ.

Dean's Council

The Dean's Council graduates are recognized for their leadership, service, and statesmanship to the Helms School of Government.

Dean's Leadership Award

Recipients of this award are recognized for their significant contributions to the Helms School of Government and student body through their principled leadership.

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE AWARDS

Master of Arts in Public Policy

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Master of Science in Political Science

Master of Public Administration

Master of Science in International Relations

Master of Science in National Security

Doctor of Criminal Justice/Doctor of

Philosophy in Criminal Justice

Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy

Doctor of Public Administration/Doctor of

Philosophy in Public Administration

*“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

MICAH 6:8 (ESV)

#LJGRAD

2023 Graduation Awards

Jesse Helms Award.....*Natalle Cawston*

John Quincy Adams Award.....*Matthew McCracken*

Ronald S. Godwin Award.....*Sharon Higel*

G. Howard Gregory Award..... *Seth Leonard*

Nathan Hale Award.....*Reagan Nelson & Ian Ondek*

Patrick Henry Award for Leadership.....*Darci Sharpe*

Patrick Henry Award for Competition.....*Collyn Kim*

Dean’s Council Award.....*Meredith Bernal, Derartu Berrios, Patricia Cazeau,*

Jacob Chase, Collyn Kim, Ryeana Klopfenstein, Karrington Maxwell, Matthew McCracken, &

Hannah Velarde

Dean’s Leadership Award.....*Gracelyn Hedrick, Jack Liechty, & Jacob Slabonik*

Outstanding Graduate Award, Master of Arts in Public Policy.....*Zachary Federico*

& Lauren Schroeder

Outstanding Graduate Award, Master of Science in Criminal Justice..... *Rianne Siegel*

Outstanding Graduate Award, Master of Science in Political Science.....*Joe Martin*

Outstanding Graduate Award, Master of Public Administration.....*Zenith Lee Parker*

Outstanding Graduate Award, Master of Science in International Relations.....*Kaitlyn Rowenhorst*

Outstanding Graduate Award, Master of Science in National Security.....*Randy Aslett*

Outstanding Graduate Award, Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice.....*Michael Evans*

Outstanding Graduate Award, Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy.....*David William Scott Bolton*

Outstanding Graduate Award, Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration.....*Brandel Boyd*

Congratulations to this year's award recipients!

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Colossians 3:17, English Standard Version