

BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IMPACT REPORT 2023-24

KOUSSEVITZKY ARTS
CENTER

TO TRAVEL HOPEFULLY IS A
BETTER THING THAN TO ARRIVE
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



BREAKING NEWS!

Free community college is here! All MA residents without a bachelor's degree can attend community college for free. Read more at berkshirecc.edu/freecollege.



President Ellen Kennedy, Salutorian Logan Osorio, VP for Academic Affairs Laurie Gordy and Valedictorian Jessica Hall

DEAR FRIENDS,

Over the past year, we have had many memorable moments at Berkshire Community College, but perhaps one of the most exciting developments is the significant increase in enrollment at the College. It's no surprise that community college is an affordable way to earn a certificate or degree, but with new programs funded by the Commonwealth, free college is becoming a reality for more and more of our students. MassReconnect, introduced in the fall of 2023, allows eligible students ages 25 and older who have not earned a degree to attend community college for free. Similarly, the Community College Nursing Scholarship Program provides free tuition for students pursuing a degree in nursing. As our enrollment numbers show, these programs are lifechanging avenues to education for so many.

Our new academic programs, like the associate degree in Natural and Physical Sciences, are increasing in popularity. The robust Respiratory Care program has seen explosive growth, thanks in part to the BHS Talent Pipeline, and is well on its way to filling an immediate need in the Berkshire workforce. None of our programs would exist without our students and the scholarships that make it possible for them to achieve their dreams. In fact, over the past year alone, the BCC Foundation funded nearly \$400,000 in scholarships awarded to almost 150 students.

But the Foundation's dynamic and innovative fundraising efforts support far more than scholarships. The Alumni Music Fest, for example, drew an audience of hundreds and raised \$10,000 for the Eleanore Velez Scholarship. Our annual 40 Under Forty event proved especially successful this year, thanks in part to a new gift from Mill Town Foundation providing each winner with \$1,000 to give to the nonprofit of their choice — thereby reinvesting \$40,000 into the Berkshires community. Foundation funds also support exciting Berkshire Science Commons projects such as the recently selected International Space Station experiment; mechatronics and nursing lab equipment; Community Education and Workforce Development programs such as Girls in Tech; English Language Learner programming; disability services; community suppers and more.

Your generous support makes everything we do at BCC possible. With an increase in need for our students — including assistance with housing and food insecurity and a growing range of student support services — we humbly ask for your continued support now more than ever.

Warmly,


Ellen Kennedy, President

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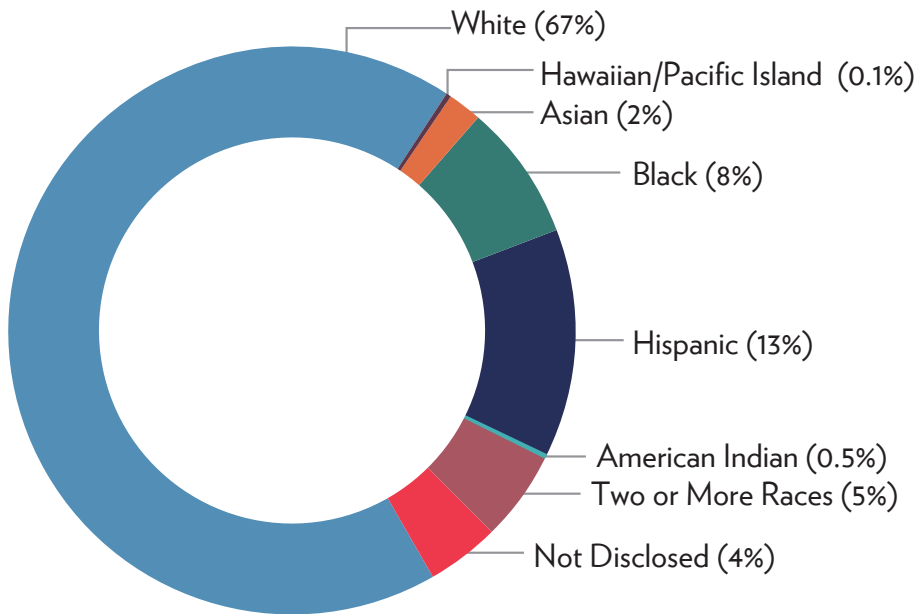
INTRODUCING LINDA CLAIRMONT AND CHRISTINA WYNN

BCC is excited that former Pittsfield Mayor Linda Clairmont (née Tyer), elected to two terms as mayor before announcing she would not seek reelection, has become the Executive Director of Workforce Development & Community Education. Clairmont is a graduate of Bay Path Junior College in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

In addition, the College is proud to announce that Dr. Christina Wynn, formerly Dean of Enrollment, as well as interim Director of Information Technology and interim Dean of Business & Outreach, is now the Vice President of Administration and Finance after serving in the interim role. Wynn holds a bachelor of arts degree from MCLA, a master's degree from UMass Amherst and a doctorate from Northeastern University.

BCC BY THE NUMBERS

2023-2024 STUDENT ENROLLMENT



1,572
TOTAL STUDENTS

65%
FEMALE

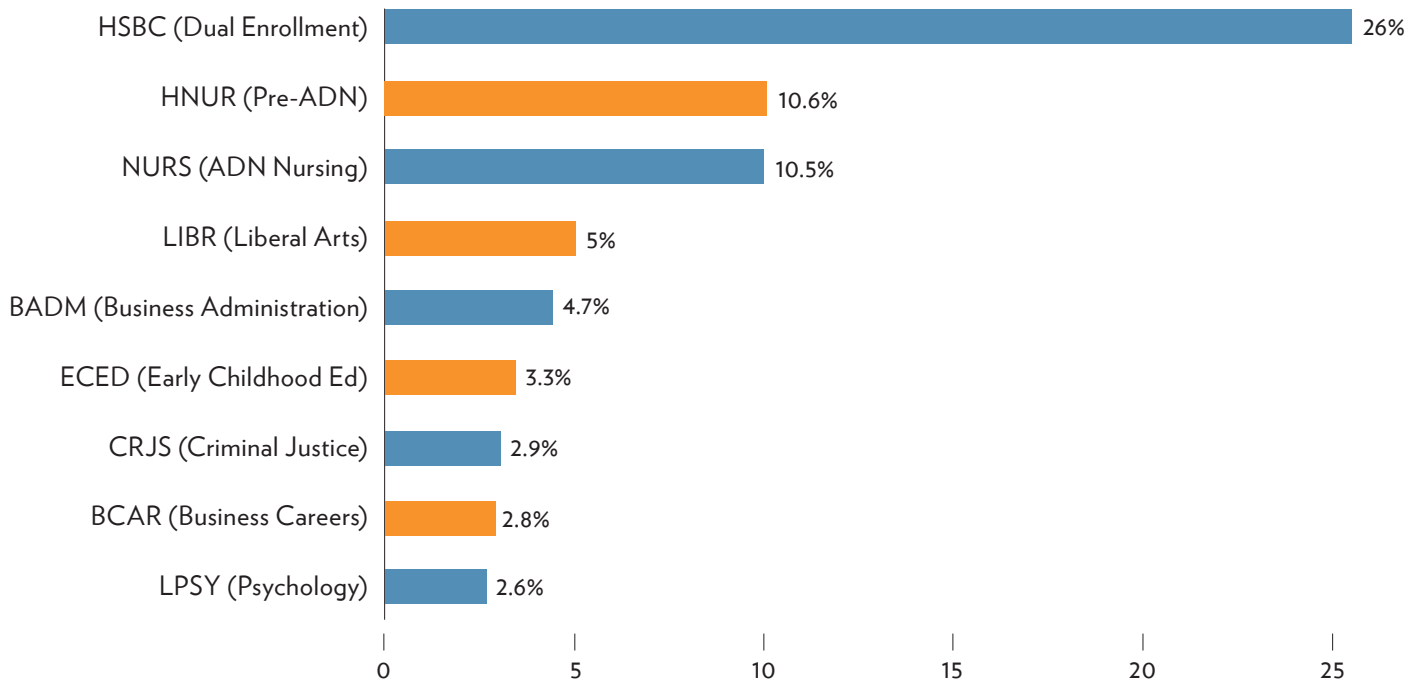
33%
MALE

29.4%
BIPOC STUDENTS
(BLACK, INDIGENOUS, PEOPLE OF COLOR)

60%
TRADITIONAL STUDENTS
(AGE 22 OR UNDER)

40%
NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS
(AGE 23 OR OVER)

FALL 2023 ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM



NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS



Culinary students at work in BCC's kitchen

The **Culinary Arts** certificate is a short (16 credit hours) but thorough apprenticeship program preparing students for careers in culinary arts. Successful graduates will be job-ready for entry-level occupations in the local food service industry, including positions in school cafeterias, hospital kitchens, restaurants and private households.

The **Addiction Counselor Education (ACE)** certificate prepares human services professionals for work in the substance use field. The ACE certificate can be completed in one year, and students who earn an ACE certificate will help to address an urgent need by contributing to a trained workforce of addiction counselor professionals. In turn, agencies benefit from a better trained workforce, and the community is strengthened by having the skilled workers necessary to address the devastating addiction recovery crisis in Berkshire County.

The **Social Work – Introductory** certificate is an 18-credit-hour program offering students a valuable starting point for a career in human services. Students in the program learn from both classroom and real-world fieldwork experiences while receiving support and guidance from program faculty. By participating in hands-on experiences, students can apply the theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom to practical situations in the workplace.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



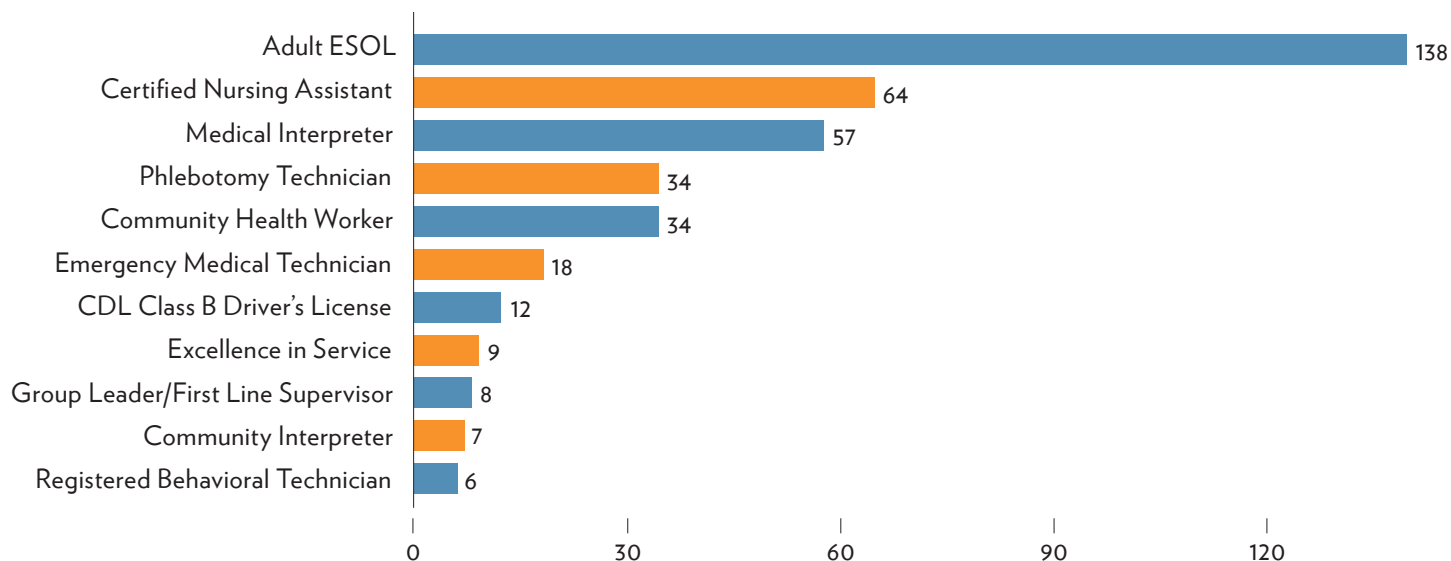
Gina Coleman of Misty Blues performed at the Alumni Music Fest in the Boland Theatre, which helped raise \$10,000 for the Eleanore Velez Scholarship in 2023.



Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll visited the BCC campus in August 2023. Driscoll toured the new spaces around campus that the Commonwealth helped transform, including the Berkshire Science Commons and the One Stop Enrollment Center.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

NUMBER OF TRAINEES IN 2023–2024



PAXTON STROUT EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) education program through Berkshire Community College opened a door for me I didn't know was possible. I had always considered becoming an EMT, but was never able to afford the education. The grants and scholarships that covered my class changed my life. This is a skill I have learned that I will value for the rest of my life. I learned so much and am actively using this knowledge in the field on an ambulance. Berkshire Community College gave me a way to help my community. I am thankful for this opportunity.



Berkshire Community College has a proud history of training and retraining the regional workforce for jobs that are unique to the Berkshires, including healthcare, hospitality and advanced manufacturing. A fresh approach to designing new workforce training and community education programs requires deliberate planning and effective implementation. By expanding the network of partnerships to develop customized training and skills advancement in sectors such as nonprofit and government, career training and adult education, Berkshire Community College can be the premier destination for high-quality training programs.

—Linda Clairmont, Executive Director, Workforce Development and Community Education

MEET THE TEAM

Meet the faces behind Workforce Development and Community Education.



Linda Clairmont (née Tyer)
Executive Director



Jennifer Hoffman
Associate Director



Tiffany Moreno
Instructional Program Manager:
Healthcare



Ana Suffish
Director of Adult Learning
Program



Aaron Oster
Instructional Program Manager:
Food, Culture & Local Economy



Liliana Atanacio '18
Workforce Trainings Orientation
And Youth Programming Manager



Linda Morelli
Manager, Community Education
Workshops



Jessica Pemble
Administrative Assistant

2023-2024 COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

- Bartending & Mixology
- Handling the Holidays
- Basic Cooking Skills for Kids
- Photography
- Cake Decorating for Beginners
- The Writer's Elixir
- Multi-Medium Landscape Painting
- How to Set Up & Use Social Media
- How to Plan & Start a Business

MARIA PERALT EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TRAINING

For me, it is a pleasure to be able to talk about my experience at BCC. I took the culinary classes. It was a wonderful experience for me, much more than I could imagine. I was surprised by the facilities that BCC offers us to better prepare ourselves academically. During the course, I met people of high business and managerial levels, people who took their valuable time to tell us their inspiring stories that led them to success step by step. It was very satisfying to be able to proudly wear the uniform that represents BCC and successfully graduate.



PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

50TH ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT



BCC student Olivia Vilord at the Awards Night celebration with Dean of Students Celia Norcross and Alumni Chair Melissa Myers '89

The BCC Foundation honors students receiving scholarships at its annual Awards Night. Awards, which are based on both academic merit and financial need, range from \$250 to full tuition and fees.

Make a difference today — give to the BCC Annual Fund at berkshirecc.edu/give. To view a list of generous donors, visit berkshirecc.edu/donors.

\$370,000+
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AWARDED

149
STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS

THANK YOU, DONORS!

Each year, hundreds of donors invest in the BCC mission to provide an exceptional education and a wide range of opportunities to our diverse community through college transfer, workforce and career pathways, partnerships and lifelong learning. For this, we say thank you!

Donors give to support the BCC Annual Fund, which supports more than 175 student scholarships. In addition, our donors support a variety of student and academic support projects, including:

- Berkshire Science Commons STEM Equipment
- Mechatronics and Nursing Lab Equipment
- Workforce Development Programming for Youth, Girls in Tech, STEM, Culinary, Music and more
- English Language Learner Programming
- Commercial Driver's License
- Starting & Growing a Business
- Disability Services
- Student Emergency Aid



Gina Foley, Associate Professor of Life Sciences, and Environmental Science students

40 UNDER FORTY AWARDS

The 2024 40 Under Forty awards honored 40 young people who are making the Berkshires a better place to live for all. Mill Town Foundation gave each winner \$1,000 to regift to any Berkshires-based nonprofit organization.

“To promote and engender the spirit of philanthropy, we are proud to empower the 40 Under Forty recipients with the ability to support their community. When young people experience the value of philanthropy first-hand, it becomes an important part of their lives, and they pass it on to future generations. This cycle is critical to the well-being and sustainability of a healthy community.”

—Dave Mixer, Founder of Mill Town Foundation



2024 40 Under Forty award winners Princewill Abanulo and Christine Bile

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PATERSON BY THE NUMBERS



Paterson community members playing at the Paul E. Raverta Tennis Complex on campus.

In 2023-2024, the Gene Dellea Community Turf Field was rented 180 times, and 118 teams played on the field in sports that included football, soccer and lacrosse. In the last year, 2,700 unique players were on the field and 8,110 spectators cheered from the stands. In addition, the Paterson Field House has reported 665 active members utilizing the Fitness Center, the tennis and pickleball courts, the swimming pool, club sports activities, or the fitness and strength classes offered regularly. Of those active members, 234 are BCC students, 94 are BCC faculty or staff, 91 are BCC alumni and 246 are community members. Paterson Field House also offers new hours of operation: Monday–Friday, 5:30 am–9:00 pm and Saturday–Sunday, 8:00 am–5:00 pm.

665

ACTIVE FITNESS CENTER MEMBERS

8,110

SPECTATORS

2,700

UNIQUE PLAYERS ON TURF FIELD

OLLI AT BCC

OLLI at BCC provides classes, workshops, lectures and affinity groups for over 1,500 members. In FY24, OLLI offered over 200 classes and programs with a broad liberal arts curriculum. As part of an ongoing strategic plan, in FY24 OLLI expanded and diversified its programs and continues to offer outstanding programming to its members and to the public around the country and the world. OLLI is a volunteer-driven program with well over 200 volunteers serving on committees, teaching, mentoring BCC students and organizing programs. OLLI speakers are also volunteers.

OLLI at BCC turns 30 in 2024 and will celebrate in September 2024, honoring early volunteers with the program, some of whom are still leaders and instructors!



Members of OLLI in downtown Pittsfield

1,558

MEMBERS

18%

OF MEMBERS LIVE MORE THAN 50 MILES FROM PITTSFIELD

3,500+

COURSE ENROLLMENTS

SAVE THE DATES

HARVEST RUN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

40 UNDER FORTY

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

BCC'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025



2023 Harvest Run

UPDATES FROM BCC

BCC PRACTICAL NURSE PROGRAM NAMED #1 IN STATE, NATION

The Practical Nurse (PN) program at BCC was recently ranked number one in Massachusetts and number one in the United States for its fall 2023 cohort. The ranking is based on a semiannual reporting of the percentage of graduates passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) on the first attempt. At BCC, 100% of 2023 graduates of the PN program passed the exam on the first try. The PN program at BCC is the only accredited Practical Nurse program in the Berkshires.



NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND MASSRECONNECT

Attending college at BCC can be completely free, thanks to two programs supported by the Commonwealth. MassReconnect serves adults 25 and older who do not already have a college degree, while the Community College Nursing Scholarship Program is designed for students who intend to enroll in and complete a credential or degree in nursing. Both programs cover the full cost of tuition and fees for eligible students.



MassReconnect has been a financial lifeline for me. When you are focused on educational goals, the last thing you want is financial burdens and taking out more student loans. MassReconnect has paved the way for better educational opportunities for me. This summer, I will be graduating. Thank you BCC and thank you MassReconnect!

—Kavita Victor, Business Administration student

MassReconnect has made transferring to a four-year college financially viable. Between the MassReconnect program and the Mass Transfer program, getting a college degree is finally an option for me.

—Dan Hardy, Psychology student



NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

63
STUDENTS

\$225,540
AWARDED TO STUDENTS

\$3,580
AVERAGE AWARD

MASSRECONNECT

93
STUDENTS

\$339,450
AWARDED TO STUDENTS

\$3,650
AVERAGE AWARD

TWO BCC STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

BCC students Mariangel Dus and William Garrity received national recognition for academic excellence. Both are members of Phi Theta Kappa, a national honor society for associate degree-seeking students.

Mariangel Dus won a spot on the 2024 All-USA Academic Team. The team recognizes students for intellectual achievement, leadership, community and campus engagement. She is one of only 20 college students named to the prestigious team and was selected from more than 2,200 nominees. Dus has also been named a 2024 New Century Transfer Scholar and will receive a \$2,250 scholarship. More than 2,200 students from more than 1,300 college campuses nationwide were nominated.

William Garrity was selected as a Bronze Scholar on Coca-Cola's 2024 Academic Team and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. His selection was based on the score he earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition, for which more than 2,200 applications were received.



BCC students William Garrity and Mariangel Dus

RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM GAINS POPULARITY

The Respiratory Care program at BCC, which offers an associate in science degree to students who complete the program, has seen tremendous growth over the past few years — so much so that, with more than 70 applications received, the enrollment cap was increased to meet demand. BCC Dean of Nursing, Health and Wellness Lori Moon says the Berkshire Health Systems (BHS) Pipeline has been a major contributor to the increase in interest for the program. The BHS Respiratory Talent Pathway, part of the pipeline program, covers the cost of all training and offers students full-time pay with benefits while they are completing their training. The program is designed to create a direct career path from education and training to full-time employment at BHS.

“Respiratory therapists were a critical part of the health care team during COVID and did not get the recognition they deserved. We are thrilled that more students are interested in this occupation, and we plan to continue to provide this excellent program for many more years.”

– Lori Moon, Dean of Nursing, Health and Wellness



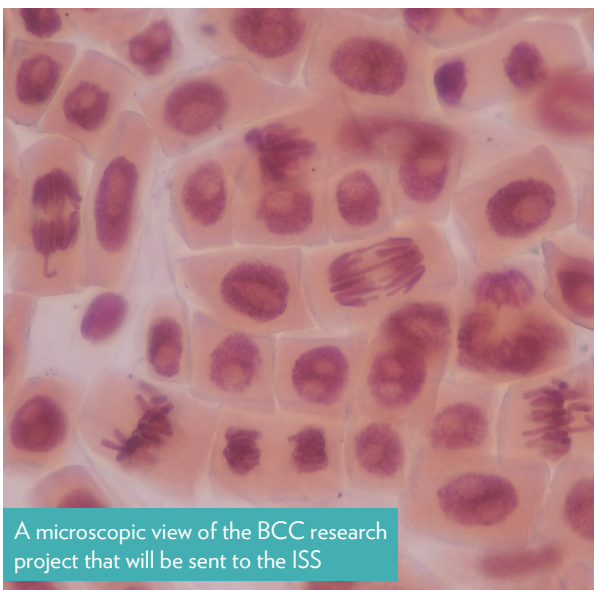
Maggie Goss, Assistant Professor of Respiratory Therapy

BCC SELECTS PROJECT FOR PRESTIGIOUS SPACE FLIGHT EXPERIMENT

BCC, which was selected last year to participate in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP)'s Mission 18, has announced its project to be sent to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of a microgravity research experiment. Entitled “The Effects of Microgravity on the Chromosomal Alignment on the Metaphase Plate in Onion Root Tip Cells,” the project was researched and devised by BCC students William Garrity, Erica Langnickel and Anastasiya Bolotova. The experiment focuses on the metaphase portion of cell division.

“It is very exciting that our project got selected to go up to the International Space Station. I would have never thought that I would have the opportunity to develop a research project that would be sent to space here at BCC.”

– William Garrity, student researcher



A microscopic view of the BCC research project that will be sent to the ISS

THANK YOU, DONORS!

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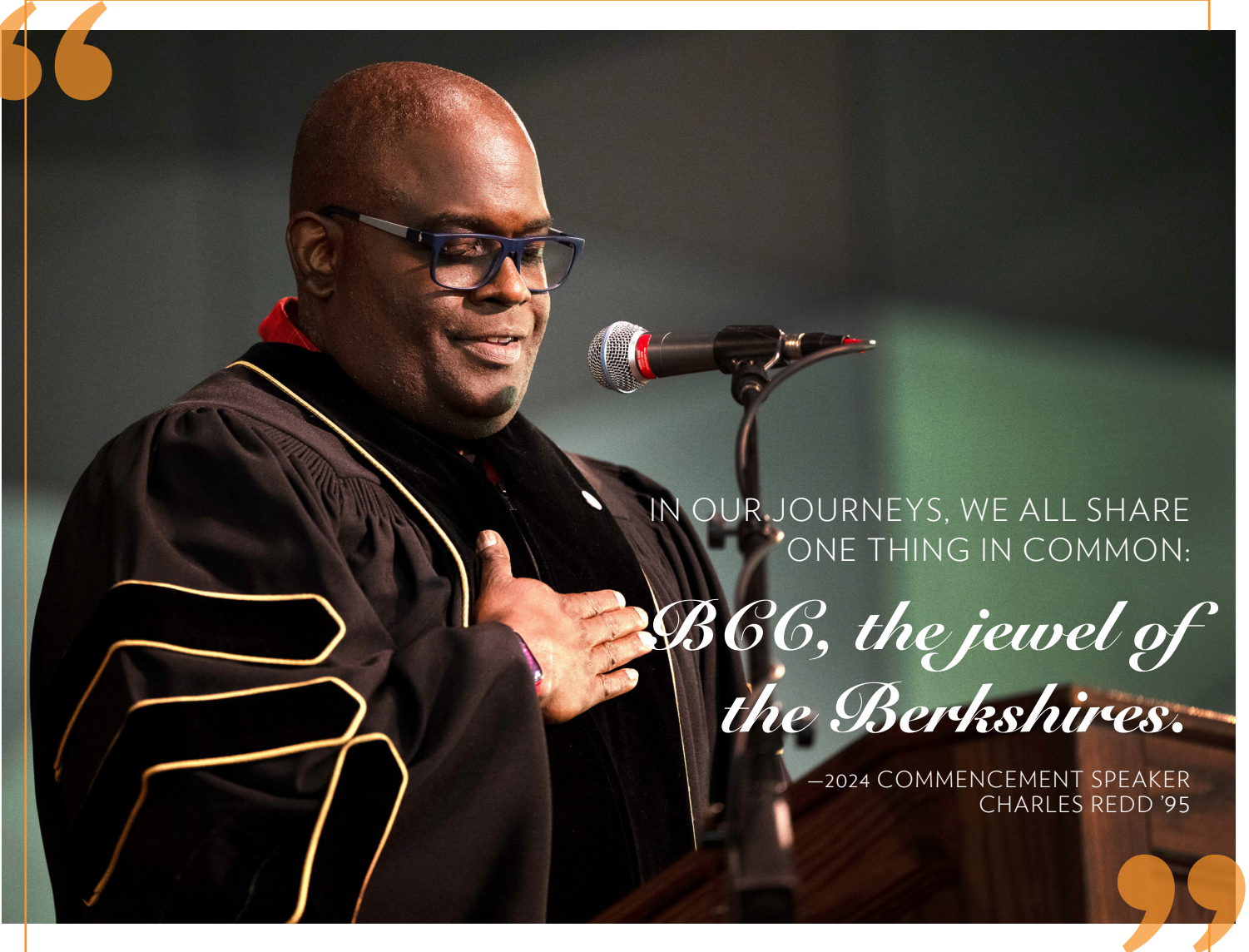
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