



**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
VIRGINIA TECH.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH  
**COMMENCEMENT**

2022

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Wednesday, May 11 | 7 p.m.  
Lane Stadium

# VIRGINIA-MARYLAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

## Bachelor of Science in Public Health Commencement Ceremony Program

May 11, 2022

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### **The National Anthem**

#### **Welcome**

Dr. M. Daniel Givens, Dean  
Dr. Laura Hungerford, Department Head

### **Commencement Speaker**

Dr. Noelle Bissell, Director, New River Health District  
Virginia Department of Health

### **BSPH Student Speakers**

Hannah Cho  
Maya Rakotoarisoa

### **Awarding of Bachelor of Science in Public Health Degrees**

Dr. Kerry Redican, BSPH Program Director  
Dr. Laura Hungerford, Department Head  
Dr. M. Daniel Givens, Dean

### **Special Recognition**

Salmon Cords - BSPH Student Ambassadors  
Red Cords - APHA at VT Members  
Phi Beta Kappa Nominees

### **Phi Kappa Phi Award Recipient**

Kaitlin Phelon - Senior Medallion Recipient

### **Closing Remarks**

Dr. M. Daniel Givens, Dean

## 2022 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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Rania Abid, *Cum Laude*

Noor Alami

Luella Ba, *Cum Laude*  
Minor: Statistics

Brittany Bailey  
Minor: Integrative Health and Wellness

Larissa Bello  
Minor: Sociology

Abigail Boyd  
Double Major: Neuroscience

Tati-Ana Campbell  
Minor: Integrative Health and Wellness

Hannah Cho, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Minor: Medicine and Society

Francisca Cifuentes

Abigail Cole, *Cum Laude*  
Double Major: Biological Sciences

Amanda Coleman  
Minor: Environmental Policy & Planning

Riley David, *Cum Laude*  
Double Major: Human Development

Sarah Dixon, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Accelerated BSPH/MPH

Lia Dopp, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Minor: American Indian Studies

Abigail Dunahoo

## 2022 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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Faith Elliott

Gabby Filippes

Abigail Graham  
Minor: Biodiversity Conservation

Skye Grant, *Cum Laude*

Sarah Guida

Essence Henderson

Kiersten Hening, *Cum Laude*

Madeline Hoffman

Sara Honaker, *Cum Laude*  
Minor: Integrative Health and Wellness, Medicine and Society

Irelyn Howell

Haleigh Janney

Jacquelyn Jarrell, *Cum Laude*  
Double Major: Psychology

Emily Jones, *Cum Laude*  
Minor: Business

Heaven Lemma

Faith Ludwig  
Double Major: Biological Sciences

Christopher Martin

Madeline Martin, *Cum Laude*  
Double Major: HNFE

## 2022 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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Natalie Martin, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Minor: Spanish  
Accelerated BSPH/MPH

Lauren Meeker

Connor Moran

Mahima Murali  
Minor: Religion

Meghan Murphy, *Magna Cum Laude*

John Ojiako, *Magna Cum Laude*

Amanda Olney, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Double Major: Psychology  
Minor: Leadership and Social Change

Rayyan Osman, *Cum Laude*

Sungjoo Park  
Double Major: Human Development

Kaitlin Phelon, *Summa Cum Laude*, *Phi Kappa Phi Medallion*

Delia Pilgreen

Rebecca Pioso, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Double Major: Environmental Policy & Planning

Caitlin Powell

Maya Rakotoarisoa, *Cum Laude*

Jacob Schaum, *Magna Cum Laude*

Abigail Sharrett

## 2022 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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Amina Siddiqui, *Cum Laude*

Sarah Smith

Taylor C. Som

Natalie Southerland, *Magna Cum Laude*

Zachary Spencer, *Magna Cum Laude*

Double Major: Biological Sciences

Rachel Madison Spiers

Omna Tedla

Aarushi Thakur

Double Major: Biological Sciences,

Minor: Medicine and Society

Jordan Tilley, *Summa Cum Laude*

Minor: International Public Policy

Accelerated BSPH/MPH

Alison Toler, *Summa Cum Laude*

Minor: Chemistry and Integrative Health and Wellness

Accelerated BSPH/MPH

Kamaya Wilson, *Cum Laude*

Minor: Integrative Health and Wellness

Virginia Wolfe

Feker Wondimagegnehu

Minor: Political Science

## PHI KAPPA PHI - SENIOR MEDALLION RECIPIENT

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**Kaitlin Phelon** is the recipient of the Phi Kappa Phi Medallion awarded by The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. The Phi Kappa Phi Medallion is awarded at commencement time to the top graduates from each college. Kaitlin earned the highest grade point average of all 2022 Bachelor of Science in Public Health graduates.



## AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION AT VT MEMBERS

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APHA at VT is a student-run organization on campus that is a branch of the national APHA organization. The members have united the undergraduate public health students through finding service opportunities, potential jobs or internships, education about public health topics and concerns, and connecting with the Virginia Tech faculty members. APHA members wear red cords at commencement.

Larissa Bello  
Hannah Cho

Lia Dopp  
Maya Rakotoarisoa

## BSPH STUDENT AMBASSADORS

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BSPH Student Ambassadors are selected yearly by current students and faculty/staff of the Public Health Program, and alumni of the program. They coordinate events and outreach programs, and serve as a liaison to the program for current, prospective and incoming students. BSPH Student Ambassadors wear salmon cords at commencement.

Hannah Cho  
Natalie Martin

Amanda Olney  
Maya Rakotoarisoa

## PHI BETA KAPPA NOMINEES

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Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and most widely known honor society. The Virginia Tech Mu of Virginia Chapter invites for induction the most outstanding arts and sciences students.

Lia Dopp  
Amanda Olney

Kaitlin Phelon  
Alison Toler

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

**Dr. Noelle S. Bissell**

**Director, New River Health District  
Virginia Department of Health**

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Noelle has been the director of the New River Health District, which encompasses the counties of Floyd, Pulaski, Montgomery and Giles, as well as the city of Radford in southwest Virginia, since February, 2017. She is currently leading the district's COVID-19 response efforts as part of the New River Valley Public Health Task Force. She oversees public health services in the region including environmental health (restaurant inspections/permitting, well and septic permitting, rabies investigations), nursing (family planning and sexual health clinics, baby care, immunizations, long-term care screenings), WIC, epidemiology surveillance and investigations of communicable diseases, emergency preparedness and response, and population health outreach/education. The health department partners with other safety net providers to provide services to our most vulnerable populations.



Noelle was born and raised in the Baltimore area. She received her B.S. in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins University and her M.D. from University of Maryland School of Medicine. She is board certified in internal medicine. She served 4 years in the United States Navy as a flight surgeon. Prior to public health, Noelle practiced inpatient and outpatient medicine as well as college health. She is married and has four children. Noelle and her family have lived in the New River Valley for 17 years and currently reside in Blacksburg.



## BSPH STUDENT SPEAKER

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**Hannah Cho**

Hannah is receiving her B.S. in Public Health with a minor in Medicine and Society. During her time at Virginia Tech, Hannah served as the Communications Officer for the American Public Health Association at Virginia Tech and also as the Academic Development Officer for her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. She was also a member of COVID Companions and AWARE at the Women's Center at Virginia Tech. Hannah performed research on substance use policy, resulting in her team submitting a bill to the Virginia General Assembly. After graduation, Hannah will be moving to Washington D.C. She will be attending The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health as a Master of Public Health in Health Policy candidate where she was awarded the Presidential Academic Scholarship. Hannah is thankful for her time at Virginia Tech and is looking forward to this new opportunity.

## BSPH STUDENT SPEAKER

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### Maya Rakotoarisoa

Maya is originally from Lorton, Virginia, where her parents Emmanuella Rakotoarisoa and Olivier Rakotoarisoa currently reside. Throughout her three years here at Virginia Tech, Maya has served as the co-founder and co-president of the American Public Health Association at Virginia Tech, a BSPH Student Ambassador, a Kwame Ninsin Leadership Academy graduate, Director of Social Media for the Theta Phi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Social Media Chair for the African Student Association, president of the African Student Association, and Media/Marketing Intern for the National Center for the Analysis of Healthcare Data at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine and Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. After graduation, Maya will be moving to McLean, Virginia where she has accepted a full-time position as a General Management Consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton. Maya is grateful for her time at Virginia Tech and is excited for what's to come!

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF

2022



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commencement social media posts.

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