

# Commencement

Fall 2021

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

December 10, 2021



# AT A GLANCE

The premier public undergraduate institution in the state of North Carolina, Appalachian State University provides a rigorous and challenging academic environment in which students actively develop their intellectual, personal and professional growth — and does so while maintaining a highly competitive tuition rate.

**\$1.7 BILLION**  
CREATED IN ADDED STATE INCOME

Source: 2015 UNC System economic impact study

**20,641**

**Total Enrollment**

**5,865**

**Rural Student Enrollment:**  
150 above the UNC System benchmark for this year

**5,939**

**First-generation Student Enrollment:**  
32% of undergraduate population

**Total underrepresented student enrollment:**

**18.2%**

**66% increase since 2014**  
(total underrepresented student population)

**108% increase since 2014**  
(first-year underrepresented student population)

Achievements under Chancellor Sheri Everts' leadership and establishment of enrollment initiatives.



More than  
**\$1 BILLION**  
in avoided utility costs  
(UNC System campuses and industry partners)

**STARS\* Gold rating**  
Since 2012

\*Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System



**Retention Rates**

\*More than 4 percentage points above national average

Overall freshman to sophomore:

**86.2%\***

Underrepresented students:

**82.7%**

(2020 first-year cohort)

Employed or enrolled in institution of postsecondary education:

**95%** undergraduate & graduate

(As of 2020-21)



More than  
**\$27.5 million**  
of value contributed to the community in the last 17 years  
(over 1.96 million hours of service plus \$861,559 in funds raised) using the \$28.54 per hour national standard for volunteer time.



International  
**TOP 3 SOLAR VEHICLE TEAM**  
since 2016



Nearly  
**138,000** number of living App alumni  
More than  
**100,000** number of App alumni living in NC  
More than  
**\$1.4 BILLION**  
contribution of alumni employed in NC

Source: 2015 UNC System economic impact study

Office of the Chancellor  
ASU Box 32002  
Boone, NC 28608-2002  
(828) 262-2040  
chancellor.appstate.edu

To the Class of 2021,

Congratulations on reaching this milestone! As chancellor of Appalachian State University, it is one of my greatest honors to recognize your extraordinary academic achievements. You have overcome hardships and difficulties presented by this global pandemic, as well as the challenges of achieving your degrees. Throughout, you have shown resilience, persistence and tremendous positivity to reach this defining moment in your academic careers. We are thrilled to honor your accomplishments.

As you graduate from App State and become part of our most enduring legacy, you join graduates spanning nearly 125 years who have gone on to make real and powerful differences in their communities and beyond. I am confident your time here has prepared you to lead purposeful lives as engaged global citizens who understand your responsibilities in local and global leadership. Your engagement in this community of scholars has provided you a solid foundation for your futures. App State will continue to provide you with a network of support to sustain you throughout your professional and personal lives, and your accomplishments have prepared you to make positive changes in our world.



Our alumni often tell us that once you become part of the App State Community, you never really leave this special place. As you continue to build on your App State Experiences, I invite you to stay engaged in the life of our campus and community, and to continue to help shape our university for generations to come.

Again, I congratulate you and wish you all the best in your bright futures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheri Everts".

Sheri Everts  
Chancellor



## Alma Mater

Cherished vision of the Southland,  
Alma Mater in the hills:  
Thou dost point our minds to wisdom,  
Till the truth our spirit thrills.  
Appalachian,  
Alma Mater of our hearts the joy and pride;  
Lead us ever, lead us onward,  
Vanguard of the Hero's side.



# Commencement

Fall 2021

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Presiding, Dr. Sheri Everts, Chancellor

Processional	<i>Pomp and Circumstance</i> .....	Edward Elgar arr. Roger Harvey Appalachian Brass Ensemble Dr. Bethany Wiese, Director
	<i>The Star-Spangled Banner</i> .....	words by Francis Scott Key arr. John Higgins
Welcome.....		Dr. Heather Hulburt Norris Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Commencement Address.....		Dr. Sheri Everts Chancellor
Greetings from the University of North Carolina System.....		John A. Fraley UNC Board of Governors member
Greetings from the Board of Trustees.....		John M. Blackburn Board of Trustees member
Presentation of Candidates.....		Dr. Heather Hulburt Norris
Conferring of Degrees.....		Dr. Sheri Everts
Alma Mater.....		Recording by Luke Combs Singer/Songwriter
Recessional	<i>Procession of the Scholars</i> .....	William G. Harbinson Appalachian Brass Ensemble Dr. Bethany Wiese, Director

## **Macebearers**

**Nine o' clock in the morning, the 10th of December**

Dr. Ünal Boya

Walker College of Business

**One o' clock in the afternoon, the 10th of December**

Dr. Karen Caldwell

Reich College of Education

**Five o' clock in the afternoon, the 10th of December**

Dr. Ray Williams

College of Arts and Sciences

## **University Banner Bearers**

**Nine o' clock in the morning, the 10th of December**

Dr. Caroline Smith

Beaver College of Health Sciences

**One o' clock in the afternoon, the 10th of December**

Dr. Jay Jackson

Hayes School of Music

**Five o' clock in the afternoon, the 10th of December**

Dr. Martha Marking

College of Fine and Applied Arts

## **Reading of Names**

**Nine o' clock in the morning, the 10th of December**

Dr. Michael Howell

Beaver College of Health Sciences

**One o' clock in the afternoon, the 10th of December**

Dr. Mark Bradbury

College of Arts and Sciences

**Five o' clock in the afternoon, the 10th of December**

Dr. Jay Jackson

Hayes School of Music



## Academic Regalia

The tradition of academic costumes probably originated in the traditions and necessities of the Middle Ages, when people dressed in keeping with their class and for their needs. Warm cloaks and hoods were needed because many of the buildings where scholars taught were cold. From the various traditions that grew up surrounding academic costumes, a code was established and subscribed to in 1984 by most universities and colleges in the United States. Now that academic costumes are prescribed, audiences can identify the institutions awarding degrees, the nature of the degrees and the faculties awarding them.

The Bachelor of Arts gown is black, closed in front with long pointed sleeves. The square Oxford cap and tassel are black. The bachelor's hood is rarely worn.

The Master of Arts gown is black with long closed sleeves and a short slit near the elbow to free the hand and forearm. The gown is frequently worn open but may be worn closed. Both cap and tassel are black.

The doctoral gown, usually also black, is worn open or closed, and has velvet panels five inches wide extending down the front edge to the bottom and three horizontal bars on each sleeve. Panels and bars are often black but may be a color indicating the faculty granting the degree. The doctoral costume also includes the square Oxford cap with a gold tassel worn on the left side.

Hoods show the greatest degree of symbolism. Hoods are black with velvet borders in the color of the faculty in which the degree is granted. Thus for the B.A. the border is white; for the B.S. it is golden yellow; for the B.D., purple; and so on for all faculties. The lining of the hood is silk in colors of the institution granting the degree.

The bachelor's hood is three feet long, with a two-inch velvet border; the master's hood is three and one-half feet long, with a three-inch velvet border. The doctoral hood is four feet long, with a five-inch velvet border.

## The Mace

The Appalachian State University mace is carried by a senior faculty member in all academic processions. Traditionally, the macebearer precedes the chancellor of an institution, both upon entering and leaving a ceremony. The mace serves as a symbol of authority just as it did during the Middle Ages, when a macebearer accompanied an official taking office or opening court. The App State Mace symbolizes the university's mountain heritage, the rustic location and the sophistication of an emerging, national leader in higher education. Its design, as a walking stick with a base constructed of rough-hewn log and finished molding, is appropriate to the natural environment of the area. At the top of the mace is a soaring, red-tailed hawk, native to the area. The hawk symbolizes power and authority, as well as the empowerment of education. The talons are grasping a sphere containing two quartz crystals. The first crystal represents the global nature of the university, its educational programs, alumni and students. The second quartz crystal is a reproduction of Grandfather Mountain.

The letters ASU relieved within the pine cone are done in black enamel and are gold plated. The various bands represent the flora and fauna native to the area. The black walnut, one of the strongest of woods, was used to symbolize the staying power of the university.

The mace was constructed by Carolina Bronze of Asheville. Fittingly, two App State students and an App State graduate were involved in the production. It was commissioned by the App State Alumni Association in 1994.

## The Medallion

As symbols of events and affiliation, medallions date back to antiquity. In academic regalia the use of medallions is traced to religious orders of the Middle Ages, when a number of orders had an oval medallion as a badge. Since many orders, societies and universities use a circle, star, oval, or cross in their medallion design, detailed artwork in the center of the medallion was adopted to differentiate the medallions. Colleges and universities have traditionally used both ceremonial and commemorative medallions. As part of the 95th anniversary of Appalachian State University, a commemorative medallion was commissioned in 1994 and is worn by the chancellor on ceremonial occasions.



# iBackAPP

## IS APRIL 6-7, 2022

**Save the date** for iBackAPP — 36 hours to celebrate App State!

**Participate** by wearing your black and gold, sharing your App State pride on social media, attending an event and giving to an area close to your heart.

**Get involved!** Visit [ibackapp.appstate.edu](http://ibackapp.appstate.edu) to learn how you can make an impact.



# Congratulations, Class of 2021!



With more than 80 graduate programs, there are many opportunities to become an expert in your field, advance your education, learn new skills and elevate your career — online and in person.

Take the next step! Review admission requirements, estimate cost and scholarships and find the program that best fits you.

### Graduate Admissions

[graduate.appstate.edu](http://graduate.appstate.edu)

[gradadmissions@appstate.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@appstate.edu)

828-262-2130

**APPSTATE**



# *Congratulations* to our graduates

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University Bookstore

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LET'S CELEBRATE!

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# YOSEF CLUB



JOIN VIA QR CODE OR  
[MOUNTAINEERSATHLETICFUND.COM](http://MOUNTAINEERSATHLETICFUND.COM)

**The Yosef Club has been in existence for over 45 years; our primary purpose will always be to provide scholarships for App State student-athletes. The Yosef Club also covers additional expenses that enhance and provide opportunities and world-class experiences.**



**Mountaineers**  
ATHLETIC FUND

425 Jack Branch Drive, Boone, NC 28608  
[MountaineersAthleticFund.com](http://MountaineersAthleticFund.com)



**New alumni of undergraduate and graduate programs can join at any giving level or amount and we will double your membership! For example, you can join the Yosef Club at \$500 and we will double your membership, placing you at the \$1,000 level. You are eligible to receive this benefit 4 years post-graduation for undergrad and 2 years post-graduation for graduate degrees.**

**Includes:**

- **Parking in an exclusive Young Alum Area (with Season Ticket Purchase)**
- **Exclusive Young Alum Gift**
- **\$100 GA Season Ticket**



# APPALACHIAN STATE 101 ALUMNI

01

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02

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using @appalumni



03

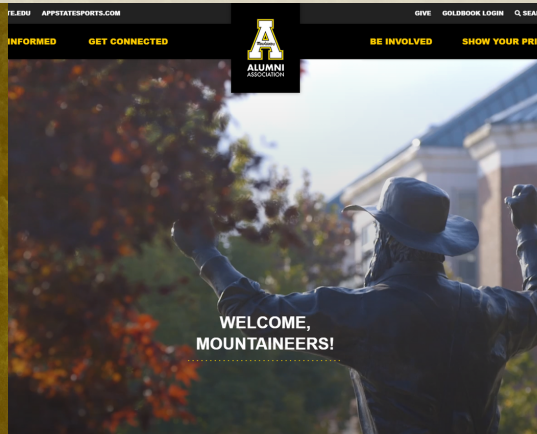
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04

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