



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
July 21, 2025**

**Halifax Community College Held Pinning Ceremony for Practical Nursing Graduates**



***Back Row L to R: Sarah Harris, Program Director of Nursing, Rhadejah Davis, LaToya Tann, Tomekia Smith, Stacy Richardson, Lashonda Simpson, Monica Williams, Tia Alfonso, Nursing Instructor, and Helen Ford, Nursing Instructor. Middle Row L to R: Dashanel Burnette, Brittney Baker, Courtney Ramsey, Troya Alston. Front Row L to R: Rayne Eaton, Tiara Harris, Jonika Horton, La'kira Bullard.***

WELDON, NORTH CAROLINA – Halifax Community College (HCC) recognized its 2025 Practical Nursing graduates during a Pinning Ceremony on July 14, 2025, at the Dr. Ervin V. Griffin, Sr. Centre on the college campus.

Dr. Patrena Benton Elliott, President/CEO of Halifax Community College, delivered opening remarks, acknowledging the accomplishments of the graduating class. Program Director Sarah Harris, MSN, RN, provided an overview of the nursing program and the students' achievements.





Graduate Troya Alston introduced keynote speaker Helen Ford, MSN, RN, a nursing instructor at HCC. Ford addressed the graduates with remarks on the responsibilities and impact of the nursing profession. Monica Williams, also a graduate, gave a student reflection on the experiences shared throughout the program.



*Tiara Harris*



*Jonika Horton*



*Rhadejah Davis*

Three graduates were recognized with awards for academic and clinical excellence. Tiara Harris received the Academic Excellence Award for the Day Cohort in recognition of her outstanding academic performance, consistent dedication to her coursework, and leadership in the classroom. Jonika Horton was awarded the Academic Excellence Award for the Evening/Weekend Cohort for maintaining exemplary academic standards while managing the demands of a nontraditional schedule. Rhadejah Davis earned the Patriot Award for Clinical Excellence, an honor given to students who demonstrate outstanding clinical skills, professionalism, and compassionate patient care throughout their clinical rotations.

The ceremony included the presentation of nursing pins, flowers, and symbolic lamps by faculty members Maria Navarro, Tia Alfonso, and Kara Clary. Rhonda Kennedy, MSN, RN, led the graduates in the Nursing Pledge. Dr. Julie Galvin, Dean of Academic Affairs, gave the closing remarks and presented additional awards.

**Graduates of the 2025 Practical Nursing class were:**

Troya Alston  
Brittney Baker  
La’Kira Bullard  
Dashanel Burnette  
Rhadejah Davis

Rayne Eaton  
Tiara Harris  
Jonika Horton  
Courtney Ramsey  
Stacy Richardson

Lashonda Simpson  
Tomekia Smith  
La’Toya Tann  
Monica Williams





Graduates expressed their appreciation to family, faculty, staff, and community members who supported them throughout their educational journey.

For more information about Halifax Community College's nursing programs, visit [www.bit.ly/HCC-Nursing](http://www.bit.ly/HCC-Nursing).

**Halifax Community College's Mission**

Halifax Community College strives to meet the diverse needs of our community by providing high-quality, accessible and affordable education and services for a rapidly changing and globally competitive marketplace.

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