



SHENANDOAH
UNIVERSITY



NEW STUDENT 2025 **CONVOCATION**



BECOMING SHENANDOAH

Some places radiate special qualities. Shenandoah is one, where lives are illuminated by a love of learning, collaboration, service and a deep, shared history. Its name and location evoke images of legends, natural beauty, exploration, and timelessness. Shenandoah University embraces and reflects its storied Valley home, educating students as radiant and warm as the mythical lights inspiring Shenandoah's meaning: "descendants of the stars."

This green, fertile, and enchanting land has attracted people for thousands of years, inspiring stories, songs, and lives marked by joy, scholarship, accomplishment, and perseverance. That legacy remains vibrant to this day, as the leaders of the future call upon the rich echoes of the past for inspiration. We are all part of this timeless story. We are Shenandoah.



NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

PRELUDE

Harambee Gospel Choir, Myles Hairston, *Director*

PROCESSIONAL

Led by the Shenandoah University Marching Band Brass & Drum Ensemble

Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons, *President*

Mr. James Imoh, *Chair, Board of Trustees*

Dr. Karen Abraham, *Provost*

Dr. Yolanda Barbier Gibson, *Vice President, Student Affairs*

Mr. Scott Spriggs, *Vice President, Recruitment & Marketing*

The Reverend DeLyn Celec, *University Chaplain*

Dr. Jeff Coker, *Dean, College of Arts & Sciences; Interim Dean, School of Business*

Dr. Andrea Smith, *Acting Dean, College of Arts & Sciences*

Dr. Jennifer Steele, *Dean, Shenandoah Conservatory*

Dr. Yvonne Braithwaite, *Assistant Dean, Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing*

Dr. Jessica Sansone, *President, Faculty Senate*

Carter Sand, *President, Student Government Association*

NATIONAL ANTHEM *(please rise as you are able)*

Shenandoah University Marching Band, Dr. Shaun Evans, *Director*

INVOCATION

The Reverend DeLyn Celec, *Chaplain*

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dr. Karen Abraham, *Provost*

REMARKS

Mr. James Imoh, *Chair, Board of Trustees*

Carter Sand, *President, Student Government Association*

LEGEND OF SHENANDOAH

Dr. Yolanda Barbier Gibson, *Vice President, Student Affairs*

PRESENTATION OF THE STARS

Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons, *President*

ALMA MATER

"Shenandoah" by Fred Dreher & Stuart Moore, Arr. by Dr. Shaun Evans
Harambee Gospel Choir and Shenandoah University Marching Band

BENEDICTION

The Reverend DeLyn Celec, *Chaplain*

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
In all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
At all the times you can, to all the people you can,
As long as ever you can. ~ John Wesley*

RECESSIONAL

Shenandoah

Fred Dreher

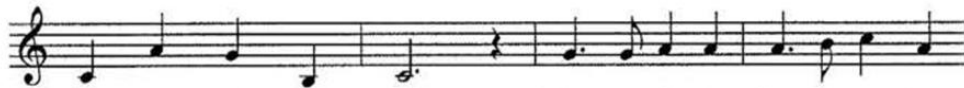
Stuart Moore



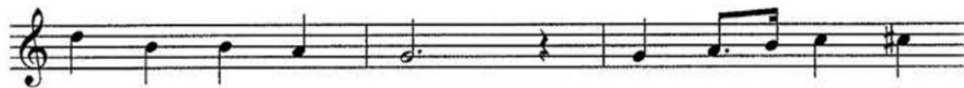
You are the por - tals no - ble, in-spir - ing, cham-pion of our
We are your heart-beats, loy - al, un-end - ing, flash - ing forth your



youth. You make our pur - pose staunch and un - tir - ing,
light. We shape your spir - it, keen and un-bend - ing,



liv - ing tools of truth. Shen-an-do-ah, glow in ra-diance,
temp' - ring strength with right. Shen-an-do-ah, e - cho ful - ly



as your flame we tend. Beau - ty in - still with -
this deep joy we sing. Hon - or be-stow up -



in our souls, beau - ty too, we lend.
on our lives, hon - or, too, we bring.

Our Legacy, Our Future



For 150 years, Shenandoah University has been a cornerstone of higher education in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Founded in 1875, in Dayton, Virginia, Shenandoah took a bold step in 1960, by relocating 75 miles north to Winchester, at the top of Virginia, enabling it to grow and thrive. This year, we're celebrating Shenandoah's long history with sesquicentennial events and savoring special 150th-themed items like ice cream, coffee, and so much more! We're delighted that you're joining the Shenandoah family during this extra special year. It's a great day – and year – to be a Hornet!





150

YEARS ★ 1875-2025

