PINNING CEREMONY

for the Associate Degree Nursing Class

May 14, 2026

NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DUBLIN, VIRGINIA

Blessing of the Hands

Today, we pause to honor these hands--
Hands that have studied, practiced, trembled, and triumphed.
Hands that have held textbooks by night and touched lives by day.
Hands that will carry both skill and compassion into every patient room.
May these hands always remember the weight of a life held gently, the warmth of a hand grasped in reassurance, and the silent language of touch when words fall short.
Bless these hands with strength--that they may lift the weary, support the frail, and steady the frightened.
Bless these hands with precision--that they may give comfort, administer care, and perform each task with excellence.
Bless these hands with tenderness--that they may offer healing not only to the body, but to the heart and spirit.
Let them be hands that listen as well as speak--that hold dignity, not just charts--that carry empathy into the sterile and the sacred.
May these hands be guided by wisdom, grounded in knowledge, and moved always by love.
As you step forward into your calling, may your hands never forget their purpose, and may the world be better, gentler, because of the healing you offer through them.
Go now with courage, and with open hands--ready to serve, ready to care, and always ready to make a difference.

Order of Program

Processional

Welcome ..... Dr. Kelley Pennell
Dean of Health Professions, NRCC

Opening Comments ..... Dr. Robert Brandon
President, NRCC

Introduction of Speaker ..... Dr. Peter Anderson
Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, NRCC

Guest Speaker ..... Ms. Samantha McClure
Chief Nursing Officer, LewisGale Hospital Pulaski

Pinning Remarks ..... Dr. Pennell

Recognition of Earn to Learn Graduates ..... Dr. Pennell
Ms. Debbie Bond
former Interim Dean of Health Professions, NRCC

Pinning of Nursing Students* ..... Clinical Instructors

Special Prayer and Song ..... Mr. Danny Wolfe

Blessing of the Hands ..... Dr. Pennell
Nursing Faculty
Nursing Students

Recessional

The audience is asked to remain standing during the processional and recessional.

*Students are presenting white roses in memory of Mrs. Helen Wolfe.

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2026 Associate Degree Nurses

Jamie Renee Agee[*#]
Katherine Marie Allen[*^#]
Alisha Renee Beck[*]
Jada Necole Bennett
Zoey Marie Body[*^]
Stephanie Rakes Bressel[*]
Abigail Rae Brown[*]
Alli Ryane Broyles[^]
Zoe Alexandra Bruffey
Nolan Cleveland Wayne Buckner[#]
Grace Callie Burdack
Angela Nicole Carter[#]
Shaina Nicole Clemons
Stacey Lynn Crowder[*]
Emma Mae Desai
Abigail Kaylynn Dickerson[#]
Paeslee Aleeya Dickerson[*#^]
Jeffrey Trent Eversole[*]
Laura Breeden Foretich[*]
Johanah Paige Gallimore[*]
Maria C. Garcia-Diaz
Raelynn Grace[*]
Cory Daniel Hoback[*]
Callie Gregory Holder[*#]
Tiffany Elaine Jackson[*#^]

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2026 Associate Degree Nurses

Lakota Storm Kennedy*#
Emily Grace King
Lashay Marie Kinsler
Valerie Melissa Knapp*
Heather Renee Linkous*
Daniel Carnell Longoria*
Celeste Carina Mace*
Kiersten Mikayla Martin*
Emily Anne Parsons Maxson*#
Jasmine Isabella Moalem*
Autumn Brooke Montgomery
Alexia Dawn Moore*
Jennifer Renea Nester*
Seth Alexander Perkins*
Kayla Brooke Poff^
Harlei Jade Pollard*
Brandi Faith Pruitt*
Gracie Ashton Reece*
Michaela Taryn Robertson^#
Zachary Allen Scherer*#
Adyson Jay-Rilee Stafford#
Macy Steele*
Laura Malinski Tessaro*
Emily Michelle Wassum
Kirstin Ann Williams*

**NRCC Educational Foundation Scholars ^NRCC ACCE Program Students #NRCC PTK Students*

Acknowledgments

The members of the 2026 Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) class thank their families and friends for their support during their enrollment at New River Community College.

Thank you to Dr. Robert Brandon, president of NRCC, for his support of the nursing students and faculty.

Thank you to Dr. Peter Anderson, vice president for instruction and student services, for his support of the nursing students and faculty.

Thank you to the following first-year ADN students and NRCC staff for volunteering to help at today's pinning ceremony:

Caleb Albano
Gracie Blankenship
Lauren Bond
Derek Cox
Natasha Gaston
Caroline Hicks
Rachel Hicks
Anthony Mague
Sarah Preston

The ADN program appreciates the contribution of these administrators and faculty members:

Administrators: Dr. Kelley Pennell, dean of health professions (April 2026 to present) and Ms. Debbie Bond, interim dean of health professions (November 2025 to April 2026)

Nursing faculty: Wendy Hay, Lisa Helmick, Lisa Johnston, Caitlin Reed, Heather Umberger

Adjunct faculty: Kimberly Arnold, Diane Blankenship, Jean Cintron, Larissa Gilbert, Kayla Hughes, Deborah Pike, Anita Perez Sanchez, Christopher Thompson-Hudson, and Elizabeth Woodyard

Thank you to the NRCC Educational Foundation for sponsoring a scholarship program that benefitted several students in the 2026 class.

Thank you to Carilion Clinic for providing nursing pins to all the graduating students.

Thank you to LewisGale Hospital Pulaski for providing white roses in memory of Mrs. Helen Wolfe.

A special thank you to our 32 clinical agencies. These organizations generously provide opportunities for nursing students to work with patients as well as expert staff members.

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* Emeritus Directors

The New River Community College Nursing Pin

The NRCC nursing pin was designed to symbolize the nursing education experience and the future path of the nursing graduate.

The **winding path** represents the opportunity for you to go anywhere.

You stand at the **gate** now. It is open and invites you to travel beyond.

The **mountains** portray the beautiful area where we live and challenges to meet and new heights to attain.

The **bricks** in the wall symbolize a firm foundation on which to build.

The **sun** represents your bright future.

The **round shape** is the circle of teaching and learning and of giving and receiving.

The **Roman numerals** for 2003 appear on the gate, the year this program began.

The New River Community College nursing pin was designed by Ms. Teri Moore, NRCC's first nursing program director.