Congratulations again on your accomplishment! We look forward to seeing you at the commencement ceremony on **Friday, May 12, 2017, at 6pm in the Tom Drake Coliseum**. Please read below for important information regarding the commencement ceremony.

**When and where can I order invitations & class rings?**
Personalized invitations and class rings can be ordered at the Graduation Fair on Thursday, March 9, 2017 in the lobby of the Bailey Center. After that date, student may order through Balfour. Generic invitations will be available for purchase in the campus bookstore.

**When is Commencement Rehearsal?**
Commencement rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 10am in the Tom Drake Coliseum. It is important that you attend. Caps and gowns will be distributed then.

**What if I am unable to attend Commencement rehearsal?**
Commencement rehearsal is not mandatory. However, we strongly encourage graduates to attend. If you are unable to attend rehearsal, please make plans to pick up your cap and gown at Lion Central by Thursday, May 11th. Any caps and gowns not picked up by May 11th will be in the coliseum on the day of Commencement.

**How much is my cap and gown?**
The cost of your cap and gown is included in your $30 graduation fee. There is no additional cost to participate in the Commencement ceremony.

**When will I pick up my cap & gown?**
Caps and gowns will be distributed in the Coliseum following commencement rehearsal on May 4th. Graduates unable to attend commencement rehearsal must pick up their cap and gown at Lion Central in the Bailey Center lobby by Thursday, May 11, 2017. Caps and gowns not picked up will be in the coliseum on the day of Commencement.

**What do I do on the day of Commencement?**
Don’t forget your cap, gown, tassel, hood, and honor cords!! Graduates should arrive at the Coliseum no later than 4:45pm. Graduates must pick up their name card at the coliseum ticket booth. If graduating with honor, honor cords will be picked up at this time. All graduates must begin lining up on the coliseum concourse at 5:00pm. Signs will be posted to direct graduates to the appropriate line.

**Can I sit with anyone?**
Graduates will be grouped by their degree. The Blue group is all Associate in Applied Science (except nursing and technical) and all other health programs. The Orange group is nursing (LPN and ADN), all technical programs, and all Associate in Science/Art. Students may sit with anyone in their assigned group.

**What is appropriate attire for Commencement?**
Women: Wear a dress that doesn’t show below the gown. Hosiery and dark shoes are recommended.
Men: Wear dress slacks, dress shirt, and dark shoes. Please do not wear tennis shoes or flip-flops.

**What are proper graduation regalia?**
Proper graduation regalia consist of a gown, cap, and WSCC approved hoods, stoles, honor cords and tassels. Graduates receiving an Associate in Science, Associate in Arts, or an Associate in Applies Science
will receive and should wear a hood. Graduates receiving a certificate do not wear a hood. Any pin, cord, or tassel unauthorized by Wallace State is not allowed.

Can I decorate my hat?
No. Commencement is an honored, respected tradition dating back many centuries. Please respect the ceremony and your fellow graduates by wearing the approved graduation regalia.

When do I pick up my honor cords?
Students graduating with honor will receive cords to wear during the commencement ceremony. There are three honor distinctions: summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude. These cords will be distributed in the Coliseum ticket booth along with graduates’ name cards on the day of Commencement.

Will pictures be available?
Yes, Village Photographers will be at the ceremony taking pictures. On the day of Commencement, photographers will be set up in the coliseum taking professional portraits. These portraits can include family members and/or friends. Village Photographers will also be taking pictures of each graduate as they shake hands with Dr. Karolewics, WSCC President, and as they exit the stage. These free proofs will be mailed to each graduate’s home. Feel free to contact Village Photographers at 800-444-7427.

Where do I pick up my diploma?
Diplomas will be available for pickup in the Wellness Center immediate following the Commencement ceremony. If you still have additional classes to take during the summer, your diploma will be ready for pickup ten days after final exams at Lion Central.

When do the doors open for Commencement?
The coliseum will be open to graduates and their guests at 2:30 pm.

How many guests can I bring to Commencement?
We do not limit the number of guest graduates invite or bring. College graduation is a huge honor and we want you to celebrate with as many guests as you choose.

I am a member of Phi Theta Kappa. How do I order my tassel and stole?
Members must order their gold stole and gold tassel through Phi Theta Kappa’s online store at http://store.ptk.org. There will also be a notation next to your name in the Commencement program.

I am a member of Sigma Kappa Delta. How do I order my honor cords?
Members must order their gold and green honor cords through Sally Warren. Contact her at sally.warren@wallacestate.edu or at 256-352-8006. There will also be a notation next to your name in the Commencement program.

I am a member of Mu Alpha Theta. How do I order my honor cords?
Members must order their blue and gold honor cords through Krystal Beasley. Contact her at krystal.beasley@wallacestate.edu or at 256-352-8164. There will also be a notation next to your name in the Commencement program.

I have served or am currently serving in the Armed Forces. How do I receive my patriotic honor cords?
Honorably discharged veterans and currently enlisted graduates will be recognized with a patriotic honor
cord to wear at the Commencement ceremony. Please contact Lisa Smith at lisa.smith@wallacestate.edu or at 256-352-8052 to order your cords.

Additional Commencement Information
Placing the graduation cap
Position your cap so the top is flat or parallel to the ground. Put the tassel on the right side of the cap (it will be moved in unison to the left side during the ceremony). Caps may not be decorated or personalized.

Proper stage etiquette
When you walk on stage to receive your diploma, hand your card (to be picked up at the ticket booth before the ceremony) to the announcer. Your name and major will be read.

Name Cards
Name cards are given out at the coliseum ticket booths as graduates check in. Name cards are to be given to the announcer so he can announce your name and major. If your name is hard to pronounce, write the phonetic spelling of your name on the name card.

Pronouncing difficult names
If you have a name that is difficult to pronounce or is commonly mispronounced, please whisper your name to the announcer so that it can be pronounced correctly.

After the Commencement Ceremony
In order to prevent congestion following the ceremony, we ask that you use any available exit door and plan to have your guests meet you at a predetermined place outside of the Coliseum.

Appropriate Behavior
The Commencement Ceremony is a time of honor and reverence and a special time for our graduates and their guests. We ask that you refrain from talking or moving excessively during the ceremony.

Commencement Program
Please note that the commencement program will include graduates who submitted a graduation application before April 1, 2017.