



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jasmine Sanders Selected as Student Speaker for Spring Commencement

FAIRFIELD, Maine — Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC) has announced that Jasmine Sanders of Augusta, the College's 2026 Student of the Year, will serve as the student speaker for its Spring Commencement Ceremony. KVCC will celebrate the Class of 2026 during its 56th Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 9 at 6 p.m. at the Augusta Civic Center.

Sanders will graduate this May with her second degree from KVCC, earning an associate degree in Nursing. She previously earned an associate degree in Liberal Studies in 2024.

She currently serves as the Student Trustee on the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees, a two-year appointment she began in 2025. In this role, Sanders represents community college students statewide, bringing the perspective of a nontraditional student and single mother to conversations on student success, affordability, and retention.

In April 2026, Sanders was named KVCC's Student of the Year, recognized alongside fellow nominees, their mentors, families, and supporters. Her journey to this honor reflects resilience, determination, and a commitment to building a better future. When she first enrolled at KVCC, she was raising a 10-month-old son and a 12-year-old daughter while facing financial instability and an unsafe home environment.

"Stepping onto campus gave me a sense of possibility, even amid the fear and chaos waiting at home," Sanders said.

"I leaned into the community that formed around me, and I started to feel connected and seen. I knew the only path to stability, safety, and a better future for my children was forward." Through deep involvement in her academic programs and a strong commitment to service, Sanders steadily built confidence and persevered.

At KVCC, she serves as President of both Rotaract and Phi Theta Kappa and as a Student Senate Ambassador. She is also a member of TRIO Student Support Services, the Future Nurses Association, the Multicultural Club, and the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS).

Beyond campus, Sanders has worked with the Stage Presence nonprofit and the South End Teen Center, supporting youth engagement. She also remains active in her church and the Winslow School System Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization.

Sanders balances her studies while raising two children and working full-time as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Her long-term goal is to become a forensic psychiatric nurse.

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