

2025-2026 Graduates

Lisa Marie Beinek***†
Tanisha Y. Brown*
Juana Isabel Caldwell*
Meghan Elizebeth Chandler*
Wrangler Michael Clifton*
Artika Reshun Coates** ‡
Jared Ryan Corbet, Jr. **
Gabriel Kenneth Rain Dill****†
Kantrice Shantae Dumas* ‡
Amy Jean Escalera***†
Kelly Yolanda Ezell*†
Barbara M. Flood* ‡
Lucius Carth-Orpheus Greene*
Nathan Alex Harrell**
Tyresha Harvey*†
Dawson Reese Hicks***
Douglas Ryan Hollis, Jr. ***

Tristen Kyle Hudson*
Travon Marquis Kitt***†
Danieyis Isabel Leyva*
Mayly Ramirez Lopez*
Jennifer Gail McCollough*
William Drake Miles***
Taydious Jaqueria Pendleton***†
Brittany Traneshia Ragland***†
Katherine Shalena Riley*†
Raphael Ryan Rodriquez**
Broderick Mandel Seldon*†
Amber Joy Simmons
Jiovanni Jakob Taylor
Wilfredo Trujillo*
Ashley Marie Warwick*
Steven Vega Valdovinos***†

Adult Education IET (Integrated Education and Training) Recipients

Artika Reshun Coates
Katherine Shalena Riley
Taydious Jaqueria Pendleton
Steven Vega Valdovinos

ALAPCAE Gold Start GED Teacher

Mr. Robert "Tre" Knight, GED Instructor, Opelika PM

ALAPCAE Gold Start ESL Teacher

Mr. Greg Helms, ESL Coordinator

Adult Education Partner of the Year

Lee County Department of Human Resources

Adult Education Scholarship Recipient

Gabriel Kenneth Rain Dill

Highest GED score among
ceremony participants †

2nd Highest GED score among
ceremony participants††

3rd Highest GED score among
ceremony participants†††

Non-Traditional Diploma‡

WorkKeys Platinum****
WorkKeys Gold***
WorkKeys Silver**
WorkKeys Bronze*

2026 Commencement Ceremony



Southern Union State Community College

Adult Education Department

Friday, July 31, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Southern Room, Southern Union State Community College
Opelika, Alabama

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out.
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow -
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man;
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are -
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

~Author Unknown

Order of Ceremony

PRELUDE..... “In C Major” J.S. Bach

***PROCESSIONAL**..... “Pomp and Circumstance” Sir Edward Elgar

***INVOCATION**..... Mr. Robert Pritchett
Administrator of Opelika Day Center

WELCOME..... Mr. Todd Shackett
President

RECOGNITION OF STAFF/GUESTS..... Dr. Eric Sewell
Dean of Technical Education and Workforce Development

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS..... Ms. Connor Chauveaux
Director of Adult Education

Gabriel Kenneth Rain Dill
Student Speaker

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE.....Mrs. Alisa Bennett
GED Instructor, Randolph County

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER..... Ms. Connor Chauveaux
Director of Adult Education

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSMrs. Laura Cooper
Former Executive Director of the Lee County Youth Detention Center

PRESENTATION OF GED CERTIFICATES

Mr. Todd Shackett, President
Dr. Eric Sewell, Dean of Technical Education and Workforce Development
Ms. Connor Chauveaux, Director of Adult Education
Mrs. Rhonda Fields, Adult Education Data Specialist

***BENEDICTION**..... Mr. Robert Pritchett
Administrator of Opelika Day Center

***RECESSIONAL**..... “Pomp and Circumstance” Sir Edward Elgar
**Audience Please Stand*