LENOIR-RHYNE SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT HANDBOOK





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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



TO THE GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2024,

With great pleasure, I invite you to participate in Lenoir-Rhyne University's commencement ceremonies. This is a special time and significant milestone in your life, and we want your commencement ceremony to be a capstone to your time with us at Lenoir-Rhyne.

This handbook has been developed with you and your family and guests in mind. In the following pages, you will find a wealth of information about the commencement ceremonies at all three campuses of Lenoir-Rhyne. I encourage you to take a moment to look carefully at the detailed information you will need leading up to the ceremony, as well as information including location and times you will need to assemble for each ceremony.

I offer my sincere congratulations to you, our graduates, on your accomplishment and wish you good luck in pursuing your dreams. We thank those who have supported you throughout your journey and know the immense sense of pride they feel in your accomplishment.

We celebrate with you this significant accomplishment and look forward to greeting you as you cross the stage during our ceremony. Upon receiving your degree, you will become one of more than 20,000 Lenoir-Rhyne alums who are Bears for Life.

Congratulations on this tremendous achievement.

Go Bears! Sincerely,

Fred White

Dr. Fred Whitt President Lenoir-Rhyne University



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DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 20	Online Regalia orders OPEN
Nov. 27	December 2023 Graduates
	honored at the Tree lighting.
Jan. 19	Graduation application deadline
Jan.29	100 Days to Graduation – Table
	in Cromer
Mar. 27-28	Graduation Fair
May 1	Baccalaureate
May 8	Columbia Baccalaureate
May 9	Columbia Center Graduate
	Commencement
May 10	Hickory Campus Undergraduate
	and Graduate Commencement
May 11	Asheville Center Graduate
	Commencement



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 BACCALAUREATE WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM – Grace Chapel, Hickory, NC

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 COLUMBIA BACCALAUREATE Christ Chapel, 4201 North Main Street, Columbia, SC

THURSDAY, MAY 9

COLUMBIA CENTER GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT 10AM – Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, SC

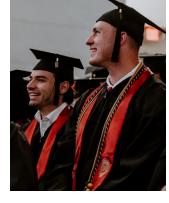
FRIDAY, MAY 10

HICKORY CAMPUS UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

6рм – Moretz Stadium, Hickory, NC

SATURDAY, MAY 11 ASHEVILLE CENTER GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

10AM – Orange Peel, 101 Baltimore Avenue, Asheville, NC







GRADUATION FAIR



Attendance at the Grad Fair is strongly encouraged for ALL Hickory Campus graduates.

Cromer Center

Wednesday March 27 11ам - Зрм **Thursday March 28** 2рм - 6рм

Order your cap, gown, and stoles

Receive honor cords

Order your announcement cards and invitations

Sign up for the Alumni Network, Bears for Life

Learn more about career services support

Get free stuff

ANNOUNCEMENT CARDS AND INVITATIONS

Order your personalized invitations and announcement cards at the Grad Fair. You can also order them online at www.jostens.com/apps/store/ customer/1051778/Lenoir-Rhyne-University/. The bookstore will carry a limited number of general announcements for purchase.

CAPS AND GOWNS

You can order your caps, gowns, hoods and stoles ONLINE! Visit the site at www.jostens.com/apps/store/ customer/1051778/Lenoir-Rhyne-University/. If you need assistance, there will be help at the Grad Fair or you can contact Dondi Joyner at 828.328.7142 or dondi.joyner@lr.edu.

THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERING YOUR CAP AND GOWN IS **February 20** If you have questions after April 4, please contact **dondi.joyner@ Ir.edu.** There is NO GUARANTEE YOU WILL HAVE A CAP AND GOWN AFTER THE DEADLINE. Order early!

ATTENDANCE

All candidates are expected to attend the commencement exercise unless they have received permission in writing from the University Registrar, Mr. Stacey Brackett. Please email your request with appropriate justification to **registrar@Ir.edu** to receive permission to graduate in absentia.

APPLICATION FOR DEGREE

All graduates and undergraduates seeking a degree must submit an application to the registrar's office no later than **January 19, 2024**. Applications can be found on the university's website or through the registrar's office. Failure to submit an application on time may result in your name being omitted from the commencement program. Those who had degrees conferred in December 2023, or will be conferred in May 2024 or August 2024, have permission to walk. To discuss your situation, please contact the registrar.

DIPLOMAS

All graduate and undergraduate diplomas will be mailed to the student from the registrar's office. **Please be sure a correct mailing address is on file in the registrar's office.** Diploma covers will be handed out during the ceremony.

LIVESTREAMING

For those unable to attend commencement, the ceremony will be broadcast live on the university's YouTube channel. A link to the live stream can be found at **Ir.edu/Irlive**.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Interpreters/Translators and Assistive Listening Devices for the deaf and hard-of-hearing guests are available upon request. Please contact Sherry Proctor at **828.328.7296** or **sherry. proctor@lr.edu** at least two weeks in advance to make your request. Additionally, if you or a family member have a disability requiring any accommodations for special seating, etc., please contact Ms. Proctor at least two weeks in advance to make your request.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos and videos may be taken from the audience or from a designated area by the stage. The university has contracted with a professional company, Photo Specialties, who will photograph each graduate receiving their diploma and post the photos online for you to view or order at **photospecialities.com**. An individual password for each graduate will be emailed from Photo Specialties to the graduate's LR email address when photos are posted. In addition, a paper proof will be mailed to each graduate's permanent address. There is no obligation to buy.

PERSONAL DRESS

Candidates should wear clothing appropriate for this significant occasion. Improper dress may cause a candidate to be withdrawn from participation. Cords, pins or medallions will be allowed only if they are symbolic of campus-wide and programmatic academic honors.

CONFIRM YOUR INFORMATION

It is imperative that LR has your correct phone number, email address and permanent address on file. At Grad Fair, you will be able to doublecheck the information we have for you. If this information is not correct, you risk having your name incorrect in the program and your diploma mailed to the wrong address.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Sign up to become a Bear for Life. You will also have an opportunity to contribute to your class gift, designating it in memory or in honor of someone special. To learn more about the resources available to LR Alumni, visit **Ir.edu/alumni**. All candidates should wear their cap, gown and stole, which should be ordered no later than **February 20**. Underneath the gown, candidates should wear clothing appropriate for this significant occasion. Improper dress may cause a candidate to be withdrawn from participation. Cords, pins, or medallions will be allowed only if they are symbolic of campus wide and programmatic academic honors.

CAP GUIDELINES

Students choosing to decorate their cap must follow the strict guidelines below developed by the Office of the President. The guidelines will be enforced the day of the ceremony and the university reserves the right to request that graduates change inappropriate attire before they are allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Only the flat, top area of the mortar board may be decorated, and adornments must lay flat on the surface of the cap. Decorations cannot extend beyond the border of the cap or fall below the perimeter. 3-D creations are prohibited.

Graduation cap decorations:

- Cannot contain any advertisement, symbols, abbreviations, initial, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that: refer to drugs or controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons or be of a sexual nature.
- Denote an affiliation with gangs or which advocate drug use, violence, illegal activity, or disruptive behavior which is detrimental to the safety and welfare of other students.
- Be obscene, profane, vulgar or lewd.

It is appropriate to put the following on your cap:

- Thank a parent, grandparent, teacher, friend
- The graduation year
- The branch of the military you will be joining
- Recognize the career you will be beginning
- Their home country's flag



Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory will have one ceremony for both our graduates and undergraduates. Please review the ceremony day procedures below and contact Cameron Womack, Commencement Director, if you have any questions at **cameron.womack@Ir.edu**.

TIME AND LOCATION

The Hickory Commencement Ceremony will be held **Friday, May 10, at 6PM**. The ceremony will take place outdoors at Moretz Stadium in Hickory.

CHECK-IN AND LINE-UP

All bachelor's and master's degree candidates who have met all degree requirements and received approval from the registrar must check in **promptly at Shuford Arena at 4:30**рм.

Candidates will be directed by the Dean of Students, Dr. Harry Titus, and Dr. Jeni Wyatt, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education.

Candidates will be able to sit in any order within the college from where their degree is conferred. Undergraduates will process in first, followed by graduates. For example, if you are graduating with a BS in Biology, then you will line up with the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

PROCESSIONAL NOTE

It is tradition to begin the ceremony with the ringing of the University Bell at the top of the hour, 6PM. Therefore, the procession will begin 20 minutes prior to the hour. All guests are encouraged to be in their seats 30 minutes prior to the ceremony.

As directed, the candidates will line up and process in the following way:

Doctoral Candidates will lead the processional, followed by Master Candidates and Undergraduate Candidates. The faculty procession and stage party (dignitaries) close out the processional. All involved will be led by Student Marshals. All candidates will stand at their seats until the National Anthem has been sung.

DRESS AND REGALIA

UNDERGRADUATES

Tassels: You will start wearing your tassel on the right side of your cap. During the ceremony, you will be prompted to move it to the left, signifying that you have earned your bachelor's degree.

Honor Cords (*undergraduates only*): Gold, Silver, and Bronze honor cords will be given for summa, magna, and cum laude candidates (respectively) at Grad Fair and during the line-up for the processional. Other cords, pins, or medallions will be allowed only if they are symbolic of campus-wide and programmatic academic honors.

Summa Cum Laude: 3.9 - 4.0 GPA

Magna Cum Laude: 3.75 - 3.89 GPA

Cum Laude: 3.60 - 3.74 GPA

Caps: Caps may be decorated. Please follow the guidelines located on page 7.

GRADUATES

Tassels: You will wear your tassel on the left side of your cap, signifying that you have previously earned your bachelor's degree.

Hoods: Carry your hood in the processional. Candidates will be directed by the Dean of Students, Dr. Katie Fisher, regarding line-up and proper hooding procedures.

FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY

Students can plan to meet their family and friends on the field for photo opportunities. Your diploma will be mailed to you. Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery and make certain the registrar has a current mailing address for you when you apply for graduation. Lenoir-Rhyne University makes every effort to hold our commencement ceremony in Hickory outside in our Moretz Football Stadium. Being in North Carolina in the spring, weather in unpredictable so we do our best to plan for inclement weather.

If inclement weather causes us to move the ceremony inside, **tickets are required for guests**. Each LR Graduate is guaranteed **FOUR** guest tickets. These tickets can be picked up at Grad Fair on March 27 and 28. Following Grad Fair, graduates will need to pick up their tickets from Cameron Womack in the President's office NO LATER THAN MAY 3. If additional tickets are available, a procedure for picking up those tickets will be provided the week of commencement.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN A:

Two ceremonies inside PE Monroe Auditorium

Because of our space limitations, the Rain Plan A for Commencement will occur in two ceremonies as follows:

3:00PM COMMENCEMENT:

Undergraduate students completing a Bachelor of Art and Bachelor of Music degrees and graduate students in Nursing and Occupational Therapy

Student check-in for the 3:00PM ceremony is 2:00PM in Mauney Music Building

7:00PM COMMENCEMENT:

Undergraduate students completing Bachelor of Science degrees and all graduate students except nursing and occupational therapy

Student check-in for the 7:00PM ceremony is 6:00PM in Mauney Music Building

A decision to move to our rain plan will be provided as soon as possible.

If we are expecting a passing storm, we will have the option to delay the outside ceremony if the conditions warrant.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN B: Delay/Light Shower

If a passing light shower or light rain is expected, the ceremony will go on as planned. Guests are encouraged to bring rain gear and umbrellas. All of our graduates will receive a rain poncho at Graduation Fair.

In the event we have lightning, we have the option to delay the start of the ceremony.

Any updates to the ceremony start time or other last-minute details will be provided on our website and social media. Graduates and guests, please stay in touch through these outlets.

FROM INTERSTATE 40:

- Take exit 125 Lenoir-Rhyne University exit.
- Turn north onto Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard.
- Pass Kickback Jacks and Mellow Mushroom restaurants (on your right just off the interstate) and go through four lights.
- At fifth light, turn left onto 7th Avenue N.E. (light will be right after you cross under a railroad bridge).
- Go through one light and proceed a quarter of a mile to the intersection with Stasavich Place (5th Street N.E.). Past the light, you enter campus.
- Turn right after a quarter of a mile onto Stasavich Place – the road has three speed bumps. McCrorie Center and Shuford Gymnasium are on your left.

FROM CHARLOTTE AIRPORT/ GASTONIA:

- Leaving the airport, take Billy Graham Parkway North (left lane) to I-85 South.
- Take I-85 South to Gastonia, about 15 minutes away.
- Take the exit for US 321 North (exit 17) and turn left at the light.
- Take US 321 North until the highway intersects I-40 (exit 43).
- Take I-40 East to exit 125 and follow directions for From Interstate 40 above.

FROM BOONE:

- Follow US 321 South to Hickory. As you come into Hickory, you will cross Lake Hickory. Turn left at Arby's at the first stoplight after going over the bridge.
- Follow that road up the hill and around the curve to the fourth street on the left, which will be 12th Avenue N.W.
- Turn left and follow to the stoplight (this will be a T-intersection).
- Turn right onto 6th Street N.W. Take the second left onto 9th Avenue N.E.
- Go through three stoplights.
- After the third stoplight, take the first right onto 3rd Street N.E.
- Take an immediate left onto 7th Avenue N.E.
- Proceed up the hill to the stop sign.
- Take left onto Stasavich Place (Shuford Gymnasium is on the left).

LODGING IN HICKORY

The following is a list of hotels which give discounts for LR-related events. Call them directly to confirm discounts and rates.

Best Western	828.323.1150
Comfort Suites	828.323.1211
Courtyard by Marriott	828.267.2100
Crowne Plaza	828.323.1000
Fairfield Inn	828.431.3000
Hampton Inn	828.624.2000
Holiday Inn Express	828.328.2081
Jameson Inn	828.304.0410
LaQuinta Inn & Suites	828.465.1100
Sleep Inn	828.323.1140

CAMPUS MAP

For a larger, interactive campus map, visit lr.edu/campusmap.



Questions? Contact Cameron Womack, Executive Assistant to the President and Commencement Director, at **828.328.7334** or **cameron.womack@lr.edu**.

APPLICATION FOR DEGREE

All graduates seeking a degree must submit an application to the registrar's office no later than **March 27, 2023**.

You can download the form at **Ir.edu/registrar**. Select **Application for Graduation**. Completed forms can be scanned and emailed to **registrar@Ir.edu** or mailed to:

> Lenoir-Rhyne University Office of Registrar 625 7th Ave. NE, LRU 7227 Hickory, NC 28601

Failure to submit an application on time may result in your name being omitted from the commencement program.

CAPS, GOWNS & HOODS

You can order your caps, gowns, hoods and stoles ONLINE! Visit the site at **www.jostens. com/apps/store/customer/1051778/Lenoir-Rhyne-University/**. If you need assistance, contact Dondi Joyner at **828.328.7142** or **dondi.joyner@Ir.edu**. Be sure you arrange to have your purchase shipped to your home. Cost is approximately \$100.

The deadline to order regalia is FEBRUARY 20. There is no guarantee you will have a cap and gown after the deadline.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Please make sure all your Business Office and Lineberger accounts are paid and library books returned.

ANNOUNCEMENT CARDS AND INVITATIONS

You may order personalized invitations and announcement cards online at **orderhj.com/Ir**. The LR Bookstore will carry a limited number of general announcements for purchase.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Sign up to become a Bear for Life. You will also have an opportunity to contribute to your class gift, designating it in memory or in honor of someone special. To learn more about the resources available to LR Alumni, visit **Ir.edu/alumni**.

COMMENCEMENT SITE ADDRESS

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center 1101 Lincoln Street Columbia, SC 29201

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

The Columbia Campus Baccalaureate Service will be held on **Wednesday, May 10** at Christ Chapel. All LTSS/Graduate Studies graduates, friends and family members, students, staff and faculty are invited.

GRADUATE CEREMONY

TIME AND LOCATION

The Graduate Commencement will be held at **10**_{AM}, **Thursday**, **May 11**, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, South Carolina. Attendance is open seating and does not require tickets.

PARKING

The Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center offers on-site parking at no charge.

CHECK-IN AND LINE-UP

All master's degree candidates who have met all degree requirements must assemble **promptly at 9**_{AM} at the convention center. Additional details TBA.

PROCESSIONAL

Master degree candidates will form a single line and be placed in alphabetical order by degree program. You will wear your tassel on the left side of your cap, signifying that you have previously earned your bachelor's degree, and wear your hood in the processional. The commencement marshal will lead the procession into the ballroom. You should remain standing once you reach your reserved seats until instructed to sit.

If you are unable to participate in the commencement, please email your request to the registrar at **registrar@lr.edu**.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

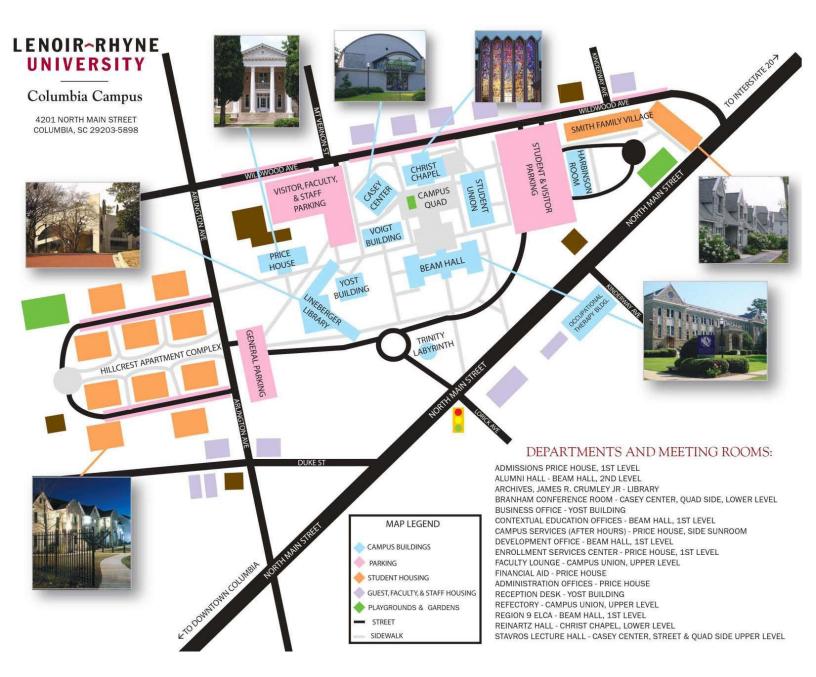
Master degree candidates will be directed to the stage row by row. When your name is read, your program advisor will direct you to move to your left across the stage to receive your diploma. Continue across to shake hands with the president of the university and other dignitaries.

PERSONAL DRESS

Candidates should wear clothing appropriate for this significant occasion. Bring your cap, gown, hood, cords (if applicable) etc. with you to check-in.

Questions? Contact Cameron Womack, Commencement Director, at 828.328.7334 or cameron.womack@lr.edu.

COLUMBIA CENTER MAP



ASHEVILLE CENTER GENERAL INFORMATION



APPLICATION FOR DEGREE

All graduates seeking a degree must submit an application to the registrar's office.

You can download the form at **Ir.edu/registrar**. Select **Application for Graduation**. Completed forms can be scanned and emailed to **registrar@Ir.edu** or mailed to:

> Lenoir-Rhyne University Office of Registrar 625 7th Ave. NE, LRU 7227 Hickory, NC 28601

Failure to submit an application on time may result in your name being omitted from the commencement program.

CAPS, GOWNS & HOODS

Beginning on Monday, February 14, you can order your caps, gowns, hoods and stoles ONLINE! Visit the site at **www.jostens.com/ apps/store/customer/1051778/Lenoir-Rhyne-University/**. If you need assistance, contact Dondi Joyner at **828.328.7142** or **dondi.joyner@Ir.edu**. Be sure you arrange to have your purchase shipped to your home. Cost is approximately \$100.

The deadline to order regalia is FEBRUARY 20. There is no guarantee you will have a cap and gown after the deadline.



ANNOUNCEMENT CARDS AND INVITATIONS

You may order personalized invitations and announcement cards online at www.jostens.com/apps/store/ customer/1051778/Lenoir-Rhyne-University/. The LR Bookstore will carry a limited number of general announcements for purchase.

CAREER SERVICES

You can meet with your career advisor to refine your job search, interact with employers at recruiting events, connect with alumni at networking receptions, or receive coaching to negotiate your salary. Contact Katie Wohlman, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Alex Lee Career and Professional Development Center, at **katie.wohlman@Ir.edu**.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Sign up to become a Bear for Life. You will also have an opportunity to contribute to your class gift, designating it in memory or in honor of someone special. To learn more about the resources available to LR Alumni, visit **Ir.edu/alumni**.

TIME AND LOCATION

The Graduate Commencement will be held at **10**_{AM}, **Saturday**, **May 13**, at Diana Wortham Theater, 18 Biltmore Ave., Asheville, NC. The doors will open at 9:30_{AM}. Attendance is open seating and does not require tickets. However, seating is limited, and we ask our candidates to be mindful when inviting friends and family.

CHECK-IN AND LINE-UP

All master's degree candidates who have met all degree requirements must assemble **promptly at 8**_{AM} in the second floor boardroom on the LR Asheville Campus (two hours before the ceremony). At this time, candidates will check-in and will be given instructions about the procession and ceremony. Candidates will be shuttled to Vance Monument to line up for the processional. Be sure to make arrangements to get back to the Asheville campus.

PROCESSIONAL

For our master degree candidates, the ceremony will start at Vance Monument with a procession down Biltmore Avenue to Diana Wortham Theater. Candidates will form a single line and be placed in alphabetical order by degree program. You will wear your tassel on the left side of your cap, signifying that you have previously earned your bachelor's degree, and wear your hood in the processional. The faculty marshal will lead the procession from the Vance Monument to The Orange Peel. You should remain standing once you reach your reserved seats until instructed to sit.

If you are unable to participate in the procession, please email your request to **susy.chandler@lr.edu** and plan to meet at Diana Wortham Theater no later than **9:50**_{AM}.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Master degree candidates will be directed to the stage row by row. When your name is read, your program advisor will direct you to move to your left across the stage to receive your diploma. Continue across to shake hands with the president of the university and other dignitaries. Exit via the back of the stage (look for someone motioning you toward the door) and return to your seat.

PERSONAL DRESS

Candidates should wear clothing appropriate for this significant occasion. Bring your cap, gown, hood, cords (if applicable) etc. with you to check-in.



PARKING

On the south end of downtown Asheville, where The Orange Peel is located, there is on-street metered parking on Biltmore Avenue and Lexington Avenue, on either side of the building. There are two parking decks located on Biltmore Avenue:

- Aloft Hotel Parking Deck, located under the Aloft Hotel, 51 Biltmore Avenue (one block from The Orange Peel)
- Biltmore Avenue Parking Deck, 16 Biltmore Avenue (two blocks from The Orange Peel)

RECEPTION

Immediately following the ceremony, all guests will be asked to transition to the patio for photos and celebration while we prepare the room for the reception. The reception, also held at The Orange Peel, will honor the graduates and their families. All guests are invited to enjoy Luella's BBQ.

LODGING IN ASHEVILLE

Aloft Hotel	828.232.2838
Courtyard Asheville	828.281.0041
Double Tree by Hilton Asheville	828.274.1800
Four Points by Sheraton	828.253.1851
Hotel Indigo	828.239.0239
Hyatt Place Asheville	828.505.8500
Renaissance Asheville Hotel	828.252.8211

Questions? Contact Susy Chandler, Associate Director of Community Engagement, at **828.407.4263** or **susy.chandler@lr.edu**.