



Richard Bland College
of WILLIAM & MARY

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE
THE HONORABLE SAMUEL PARHAM '96**

By awarding the honorary associate degree, Richard Bland College (“the College”) seeks to honor meritorious and outstanding service to the College and the community at large, and to recognize persons whose lives serve as examples of the College's aspirations for its students.

Born and raised in Petersburg, VA, Samuel Parham is a dedicated public servant and business professional who has significantly contributed to his community. A 1993 graduate of Petersburg High School, Mr. Parham furthered his education at Richard Bland College, where he earned an Associate of Science degree in 1996. As a Richard Bland student, he demonstrated leadership by founding the Muti-Cultural Alliance Club, and he was a proud member of the Richard Bland College Players Theater Club.

Mr. Parham continued his academic journey at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management.

Professionally, Mr. Parham is the Director of Business Operations at Colonial Cleaning Service Inc., a family-owned enterprise that has been serving the Petersburg region since 1981.

Mr. Parham’s political career began with his election to Petersburg City Council in November 2014. His peers on the Council recognized his leadership skills and elected him Vice Mayor in January 2015. Two years later, in January 2017, he was elected Mayor by the City Council, a position he continues to hold due to repeated re-elections by the Council.

In addition to his mayoral duties, Mr. Parham has held numerous leadership roles in the community, including the Rotary Assistant Governor of the Colonial Heights Rotary Club and the Petersburg Breakfast and Lunch Rotary Clubs. He served as President of the Petersburg Breakfast Rotary Club and was named Rotarian of the Year. During his 15 years in Rotary, he founded the first Rotaract Club at Richard Bland College and the Interact Club at Appomattox Regional Governor’s School. He is also a board member of the Alliance for Building Better Medicine, the Richard Bland College Foundation, the Virginia Gateway Region, the Battersea Foundation, and the VCU Alumni Association. Mayor Parham serves as Chair of the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and Vice Chair of the Crater Planning District Commission. In August, 2023, Governor Glenn Youngkin appointed Mayor Parham to the Virginia Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism.

Mr. Parham is married to Maytee Parham, Petersburg Clerk of Court, and has two children, Analise and Austin.

Mr. Parham will honor Richard Bland College by delivering the Commencement Address on May 15, 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That in recognition of Mr. Samuel Parham's public service, professional achievements, distinguished career, and commitment to economic development in the Commonwealth of Virginia, he receive the highest form of recognition offered by Richard Bland College to persons of exceptional distinction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon recommendation of the President, the William & Mary Board of Visitors hereby approves the awarding of the honorary Associate of Science degree to Mr. Samuel Parham at the Richard Bland College Commencement Ceremony on May 15, 2024.