



Richard Bland College
of WILLIAM & MARY

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE
MR. THOMAS L. WALKER**

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 by awarding the honorary Associate degree.

Mr. Thomas L. Walker is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of DroneUp, the largest organization solely committed to promoting safer skies through continuous engagement with both amateur and professional drone pilots. DroneUp is a flexible flight services company that tackles last-mile delivery across multiple industries, including medical, construction, food and beverage, retail, and smart city logistics.

Mr. Walker previously served as president of Web Teks, a leading online and mobile research and strategy development firm. As a career military officer, he managed the extensive programming and web enablement of computer systems to support both U.S. and international Special Forces. Mr. Walker leveraged this experience and built a tightly woven team of high-achieving professionals who have helped Web Teks grow to the successful company it is today. Under his leadership, the Web Teks client list grew to over five hundred customers spanning four continents and eleven countries.

As a result of his research, *The Point of Mobile Confluence*, Mr. Walker was tapped as an advisor to the White House on innovative technologies and their impact on the emerging workforce. Data from that research, combined with a sincere desire to improve emergency and disaster response outcomes, ultimately led to the creation of DroneUp.

In August, 2022, DroneUp announced the expansion of its headquarters in Virginia Beach and the establishment of a new testing, training, and R&D center for drone operators at Richard Bland College, which will create 145 new jobs. In addition to the headquarters facility and training center, DroneUp plans to establish three drone hubs at Walmart locations in Virginia, transforming product delivery as it extends its footprint across the Commonwealth.

Mr. Walker is passionate about his community and serves on several regional boards. Additionally, he provides financial and volunteer assistance to dozens of organizations and is a frequent speaker at various corporate and organizational events.

Mr. Walker holds a remote pilot certificate and commercial drone license from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Mr. Walker will honor Richard Bland College by delivering the Commencement Address on May 17, 2023.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That in recognition of Mr. Thomas L. Walker'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. Thomas L. Walker at the Richard Bland College Commencement Ceremony on May 17, 2023.