

*CLASS of 2026*

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# COMMENCEMENT

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SATURDAY, MAY 9



GREENSBORO  
COLLEGE

GREENSBORO



COLLEGE





*In the One Hundred Eighty Seventh Year of the College*

# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Lawrence D. Czarda, Ph.D. *President*  
May 9, 2026



**Prelude Music** ..... Wind Ensemble  
Aaron M. Noë '97  
*Director of Bands*

**\*Processional**..... Scottish Medley..... Dr. Stuart Davidson  
*Chair of the Department of Mathematics*

**\*Opening**..... Dr. Rebecca F. Blomgren  
*College Marshal*

**\*Invocation** ..... The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Brewer  
*Campus Chaplain*

**Welcome**..... President Czarda

**Introduction of the Student Speaker**..... The Rev. Dr. Brewer

**Student Address** ..... "Unless" ..... Sloanne E. Petersen '26

**Special Recognitions**..... Senior Administrators

Harold H. Hutson Award  
William Henry and Martha Grant Likins Award  
Distinguished Graduate Student Award  
2026-2027 Moore Professor Award

**Introduction of Commencement Speaker** ..... Dr. Thomas W. Clawson  
*First Vice Chair, Greensboro College Board of Trustees*

**Commencement Address** ..... "The Seats We Choose" ..... Dr. Whitney Oakley '06  
*Superintendent, Guilford County Schools*

**Presentation of Candidates for Degrees** ..... Dr. Daniel J. Malotky  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost*

**Presentation of Diplomas** ..... President Czarda

**Conferring of the Degrees** ..... President Czarda

**\*Alma Mater**..... Wind Ensemble  
Aaron M. Noë '97  
Led by Ariana M. Avila '26

To thee, GC, we lift our praise;  
We'll cherish thee through countless days.  
From knowledge gained and friends we've made  
We'll enter life, our foundation laid.  
Our thoughts of thee will always be  
Among our fondest memories.

Our hopes and dreams inspired by you  
Will lead us on our whole life through;  
Reflections of the years gone by  
Created these, our ambitions high.  
Our thoughts of thee will always be  
Among our fondest memories.

**\*Benediction** ..... The Rev. Dr. Brewer

**\*Closing** ..... Dr. Blomgren

**\*Recessional** ..... "In Your Wildest Dreams" ..... Wind Ensemble  
Tyler S. Grant Aaron M. Noë '97

*\* Audience will please stand, as able.*



**Whitney Oakley, Ed.D.**

*Superintendent, Guilford County Schools*

Dr. Whitney Oakley is the fifth superintendent of Guilford County Schools (GCS), serving more than 66,000 PK-12 students and 10,000 employees at 121 schools. Appointed in 2022 as the district's first homegrown superintendent, Oakley is a long-time educator and school administrator with a proven track record of improving student learning outcomes.

Dr. Oakley is committed to addressing barriers to student success and achievement. During her tenure, the number of GCS schools exceeding growth is up by 19 since 2021-22. In addition, 77% of schools met or exceeded expected growth in 2024-25, an increase of four percentage points compared to pre-pandemic data from 2018-19. From 2023-24 to 2024-25, 67 schools showed an increase in their overall end-of-grade or end-of-course test performance, and 21 schools showed an increase of five percentage points or more.

Additionally, Dr. Oakley remains committed to ensuring that every student is prepared and can thrive once they leave GCS. During the 2024-25 school year, GCS achieved a near-record graduation rate at 92.1%, including the highest graduation rates for black students and students with disabilities. The district also maintained the highest cohort graduation rate among the largest districts in North Carolina, including the state's overall cohort graduation rate.

Under Oakley's leadership, Guilford County Schools is managing \$2 billion in school construction bonds, one of the largest bond programs in North Carolina. Six rebuilt schools have opened in the past two years. The district also implemented a comprehensive strategy to enhance school safety, including additional cameras, radios and safety vestibules, among other items.

Oakley holds a Bachelor of Science in special education from East Carolina University, a Master of Education in elementary education from Greensboro College, a Specialist in Education and a Doctor of Education in educational leadership from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She lives in Guilford County with her husband and two children, who are both currently enrolled in GCS.



**SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS**

Sloanne E. Petersen  
Taylor L. Cotie

**COLLEGE MARSHAL**

Dr. Rebecca F. Blomgren

**FACULTY MARSHALS**

Professor Josephine M. Hall, *Chief Faculty Marshal*  
Dr. Anna Carter, *Assistant Faculty Marshal*

**STUDENT MARSHALS**

Azariah Surratt, *Chief Student Marshal*  
Carlisle A. Dozier, *Assistant Chief Student Marshal*  
Emilee Z. Adams  
Larkin N. Baxley  
Regan G. Dailey  
Samantha G. Henry  
Kirra L. Hough  
Minh Le  
Maelyn N. Leitch  
Charlotte C. Michaels  
Paydon B. Reynolds  
Laiken A. Skinner  
Samya A. Williams

**WIND ENSEMBLE**

Aaron M. Noë '97, *Director*

*Flute*  
Shaniah M. Taylor  
Carolyn Vegas  
Kelly Gardner  
Donna Yaniglos

*Clarinet*  
Reyes B. Canseco

*Bass Clarinet*  
Alexis B. Conseco

*Oboe*  
Katie Sanders

*Tenor Saxophone*  
Abigaile M. Cockrum

*Baritone Saxophone*  
Patrick J. Flisher

*Horn in F*  
Dr. Jonathan P. Brotherton

*Tuba*  
Brent O. Norfleet '23

*Percussion*  
Christian J. Johnson  
Keilea J. Hughes

*Piano*  
Matthew T. Richter



## GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2026 \*

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

**Bishop Myles Brown**, *Criminal Justice*

**Elijah Douglas Brown**, *Theatre*

**Stewart Ja'Heim Brown**, *Liberal Studies*

**Taiseng A'Blessenyun Brown**, *Psychology*

**Jaylon Michael Brunson**, *English and Communication Studies*

**Andrew Samuel Burgess**, *Criminal Justice*

**Diana Ruby Castro-Vazquez**, *Special Education, History*

**Xinyi Chen**, *Studio Art*

**Magnus Levy Conway**, *Theatre*

**Paige Rene Couwenhoven**, *Psychology*

**Coy Franklin Davis**, *Criminal Justice*

**Mary Alexzandra Davis**, *Liberal Studies*

**Grace Isabelle Dobson**, *Sociology*

**Stephen Marion Dunlow**, *Criminal Justice*

**Jhanay O'Neisha Edmonds**, *English and Communication Studies*

**Aidan James Eller**, *English and Communication Studies*

**Zia Ellis**, *Criminal Justice*

**Anna Panthea Frazier**, *History, Criminal Justice, Political Science*

**Shaleea Marie Gaillard**, *Studio Art*

**Bryan Jayden Gibbs**, *English and Communication Studies*

**Alexander Gordon Harden**, *Music*

**Deaven Jamel Hawkins**, *English and Communication Studies*

**Yuting Huang**, *Studio Art*

**Samira Mohammed Innusah**, *Sociology*

**Jiayang Huang**, *Studio Art*

**Symieon Tyre Marsh-Sheridan**, *Sociology*

**Nathan Christopher Martin**, *Religion*

**Brady Edward Mowers**, *Criminal Justice*

**Matthias James Reynolds**, *Music*

**Michael Andrew Richards**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Sofia Guadalupe Rodriguez Valdez**, *Psychology, Sociology*

**Sadie Elizabeth Routh**, *Psychology*

**Danlei Su**, *Studio Art*

**Briella Lucille Thomas**, *English*

**Carly Riann Walton**, *Criminal Justice*

### BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Tameka Shantay Bailey**, *Business Administration*

**Kentrey Lekeith Fallen**, *Business Administration*

### BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

**Ariana Margarita Avila**, *Theatre*

**Ashlannde Isaiah Christian**, *Theatre*

**Jordan E. Ingersoll**, *Theatre*

**Gabrielle Dee Iwaszkiewicz**, *Theatre*

**Demari Antonio Jackson**, *Theatre*

**Brandyn Francis Myers**, *Theatre*

**Casey Taylor Pate**, *Theatre*

**Jerica Grey Ruminski**, *Theatre*

### BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION

**Brayden Teague Gregory**, *Music Education*

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

**Allysia Kairi Alfred**, *Biology*

**Christian Hunter Anderson**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Keondrick Lattrel Baines**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Louis Frank Berini**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Dylan Roy Bobbitt**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Kelci Leigh Brooks**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Luke Kainan Butner**, *Biology*

**Molly Jean Caragol**, *Psychology*

**Alexandra Elizabeth Carefoot**, *Health Science*

**Layla Grace Carpenter**, *Psychology*

**Jaycob Manuel Caseres**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Watcharakan Chankarn**, *Supply Chain Management*

**Sophia Rayne Conger**, *Psychology*

**Zachary Mark Corbett**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Beverly Alane Cordes**, *Psychology*

**Taylor Lynn Cotie**, *Health Science*

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, CONTINUED

**Cedrick De'Mon Crenshaw Jr.**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Ethan James Cuddeback**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Karla Esther Del Castillo Diaz**, *Psychology*

**De'Shawn Karee Dykes**, *Health Science*

**Ella Renee Ebert**, *Biology*

**Christian Jamir Edwards**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Jasmine Nicole Edwards**, *Health Science*

**Madelyn Jenell Eitemiller**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Kelmon Taquan Evans**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Stanley Anthony Federovitch**, *Accounting*

**Jessica A. Ferdula**, *Psychology*

**Dalton Stephen Fryar**, *Health Science*

**Grace Nicole Garraghty**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Shane Hunt Garrett**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Hilary Adele Graley**, *Health Science*

**Jamie Nicole Hammer**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Raina Kahlhan Hampel**, *Health Science*

**Mackenzie Leigh-Ann Helton**, *Health Science*

**Olivia Grace Hyatt**, *Health Science, Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Sean Alexander Iannantuono**, *Data Science*

**Kayleigh Elizabeth Isaacson**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Adelia Grace Klingensmith**, *Liberal Studies*

**Deanna Grace Lari**, *Psychology*

**Christopher Edward Le**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Omori Christian Lee**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Courtney Anne Maddox**, *Health Science*

**Jesse Martin Madole**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Allison Martina Mann**, *Public Health*

**Isaiah Mckinley Manning**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Morgan Ashlee Mayfield**, *Health Science*

**Kantley Elizabeh McKown**, *Health Science*

**Nicholas Ryan Menjivar**, *Exercise and Sport Studies, Health Science*

**Ryan Allan Mittelman**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Jayden Isaac Morrison**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Daniel Chase Nix**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Nkemjika Nze**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Dalton Gabino Ovando**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**William Roger Pailthorpe**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Sloanne Elizabeth Petersen**, *Biology*

**Taya Renee Phelps**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Omega Lakhota-Grace Pinnix**, *Health Science*

**Xypher Blancaflor Pino**, *Biology*

**Edith Ponce**, *Psychology*

**Griffin Colen Powell**, *Health Science*

**Michael William Rinaldi**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Ryan Jacob Roberts**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Connor Wesley Sakamoto**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Joshua Williford Sims**, *Supply Chain Management*

**Dewayne Andrew Smith**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Skyleigh Cassidy Smith**, *Biology, Psychology*

**Alexander Reid Speckin**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Nygie Dalon Stroman**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Samuel Alexander Swinson**, *Psychology*

**Evan Tyler Sykes**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Raven Jaymes Taylor**, *Health Science, Exercise and Sport Studies*

**Jaylyn Lane Templeton**, *Health Science*

**Michael Reece Venable**, *Business Administration and Economics*

**Victoria Jane Vess**, *Psychology*

**Madison Elizabeth Wildman**, *Psychology*

**Tomeka Allen Wormack**, *Psychology*

**Christopher James Zeiher**, *Exercise and Sport Studies*

## MASTER OF ARTS

**Maria Ignacia Allende Guzman**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Ángela Marcela Andrade Hernández**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Jacob Carroll Barlow**, *Religion, Theology, and Culture*  
**Derek Arthur Bostic**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Richard Lowell Bryant**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Angela Andrea Bustos Pereira**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Vale Simone Campbell**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Luis Felipe Carvajal Cortes**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Emilia Chavez Hita de Cordova**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Milagro Ocdemia Contreras**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Maria Fernanda De La Rosa Perez**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Lia Vanina Decker**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Melina Diago Camacho**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Catalina Errazuriz**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Diana Carolina García Sándigo**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Maria Alejandra Gomez Orozco**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Ivonne Alexandra Guerrero Murcia**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Angel Leonardo Londoño Ospina**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Iris Yolanda Lopez Rojas**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Fabiola Maybe**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Gabriela Cristina Mercado Rojano**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Edilmar Moreno Rosales**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Reinel David Oyola Massy**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Edwin Leonardo Puentes Aponte**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Yury Andrea Ramirez Luna**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Anette Pilar Sandino Castro**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Junior Fabián Soto Marín**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Yeny Alexandra Suárez Vargas**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Maribel Vallecillo Mejia**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Leonardo Enrique Vargas Bernal**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Mirian Del Valle Vasquez Hernandez**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*  
**Siyu Wang**, *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*

## MASTER OF EDUCATION

**Jeimy Indira Flores Reyes**, *Elementary Education*  
**Denease Doreann Lamey-Johnson**, *Elementary Education*

## GEORGE CENTER FOR HONORS STUDIES GRADUATES

**Luke Kainan Butner**                      **Karla Esther Del Castillo Diaz**                      **Xypher Blancaflor Pino**  
**Alexandra Elizabeth Carefoot**                      **Anna Panthea Frazier**                      **Briella Lucille Thomas**  
**Taylor Lynn Cotie**



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**Graduates who have earned honors designations will be so recognized as their names are announced during the presentation of diplomas:**

**Cum Laude** (with honors): *Student earned at least a 3.5 grade-point average with at least 52 undergraduate credit hours earned at Greensboro College.*

**Magna Cum Laude** (with high honors): *Student earned at least a 3.75 grade-point average with at least 52 undergraduate credit hours earned at Greensboro College.*

**Summa Cum Laude** (with highest honors): *Student earned at least a 3.9 grade-point average with at least 52 undergraduate credit hours earned at Greensboro College.*

\* Students whose names appear on this list are subject to fulfilling all Greensboro College graduation requirements.

## STUDENT ACADEMIC AWARDS

### *Alpha Chi Award*

Xypher B. Pino

### *Collegian Excellence Award*

Shaniah B. Taylor

### *Dr. and Mrs. S. Laws Parks Accounting Award*

Stanley A. Federovitch

### *Clara Dougherty Brown Art Award*

Shaleea M. Gaillard

### *Arnold Van Pelt Biology Award*

Luke K. Butner

### *Fred L. and Myrtle R. Proctor Endowed Scholarship Award in Business*

Sydney J. Harris

### *Academic Achievement in Business Award*

Louis F. Berini

### *Dean's Award for Most Outstanding Graduating Student in Business*

Tameka S. Bailey

### *Harriet Darlene Medina Scholarship Award in Chemistry*

Enjoi L. Allen

### *Leroy Lee Smith Memorial Award in English Composition*

Elijah W. Hebron

Summer L. Sheek

### *Mary L. Ginn Award for Excellence in English*

Briella L. Thomas

### *Olena S. Bunn Achievement Award in English*

Aidan J. Eller

### *Marvin L. Skaggs History Award*

Anna P. Frazier

### *Mayo C. Harlow III Health Sciences Award*

Paydon B. Reynolds

### *Dr. Randy Hunt Exercise and Sport Studies Award*

Evan T. Sykes

### *Dr. Willie Taylor Health and Physical Education Award*

Karli A. Mason

### *Hunt Family Music Scholarship*

Brayden T. Gregory

### *Luella Pugh Knott Music Award*

Matthew T. Richter

### *Blanche Burrus Piano Scholarship*

Matthew T. Richter

### *Jazz Ensemble Award*

Matthew T. Richter

### *Horace R. Kornegay Political Science Award*

Emilee Z. Adams

### *Distinguished Psychology Student Award*

Madison E. Wildman

### *Excellence in Religious Thought Award*

Kem D. Kilgore

### *Thelma Dixon Taylor Religion Scholarship*

Anna E. Henry

### *Hardee Christian Service Award*

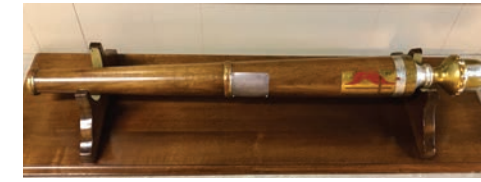
Nathan C. Martin

### *Distinguished Sociology Student Award*

Grace I. Dobson

Chandler Eckert

## THE MACE



During the Middle Ages, the wood mace clad in metal was an effective weapon in battle, but as newer and more powerful military arms developed, it was transformed into a symbol of authority. The earliest ceremonial maces were borne by bodyguards of the 12th century English and French kings; by the end of the 16th century, they were used widely by officials of English cities and towns. Today the ceremonial mace is found in the British Houses of Parliament, carried before ecclesiastical dignitaries and used in university and college convocations. The present Greensboro College staff of the mace, which is borne by the Faculty Marshal at academic convocation processions and recessions, was commissioned in 1982 by Dr. James S. Barrett, 15th president of the College (1981-1984), and carved by Benbow Furniture Company of Greensboro. It was designed to allow the addition of commemorative plates to the staff. The sterling plate affixed to the staff was a gift of the senior class of 1987. During the 2003-2004 academic year, Prof. Bob K. Kowski, Jefferson-Pilot Professor of Art Emeritus, redesigned the mace and gave it its distinctive look.

## THE MEDALLION

Used since antiquity as symbols of momentous events as well as affiliations with groups and associations, medallions



were important in medieval times as symbols of membership in religious orders and guilds. As part of academic regalia, they may be struck for both ceremonial and commemorative uses. Greensboro College's silver-plated medallion, worn by the president during academic convocations, was first worn by 12th president Dr. J. Ralph Jolly (1964-1969) for his inauguration on October 28, 1965. Engraved with the College Seal, the medallion was created by Schiffman's Jewelers of Greensboro. For the Sesquicentennial celebration in 1988, the College commissioned Schiffman's Jewelers to design sterling silver links to be added to commemorate the presidents of the College. Each link of the chain bears the name of a Greensboro College president with the date of his or her tenure.

## GREENSBORO COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

The Rev. Solomon Lea (1846-1847)

Dr. Albert M. Shipp (1847-1850)

Dr. Charles F. Deems (1850-1854)

Dr. Turner M. Jones (1854-1890)

Dr. Benjamin F. Dixon (1890-1893)

Dr. Frank L. Reid (1893-1894)

Dr. Dred Peacock (1894-1902)

Mrs. Lucy H. Robertson (1902-1913)

Dr. Samuel B. Turrentine (1913-1935)

Dr. Luther L. Gobbel (1935-1952)

Dr. Harold H. Hutson (1952-1964)

Dr. J. Ralph Jolly (1964-1969)

Dr. David G. Mobberley (1969-1972)

Dr. Howard C. Wilkinson (1972-1981)

Dr. James S. Barrett (1981-1984)

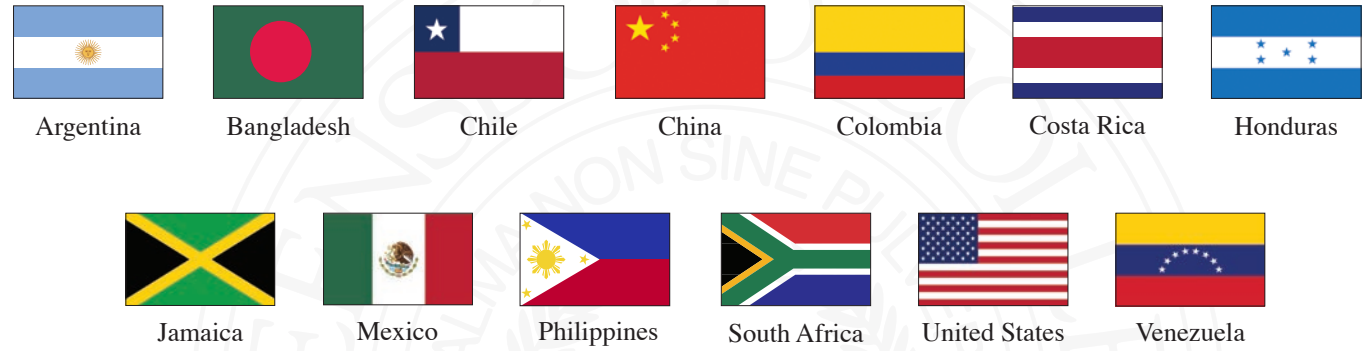
Dr. William H. Likins (1984-1993)

Dr. Craven E. Williams (1993-2009)

Dr. Lawrence D. Czarda (2010- )

## THE LONG GREEN LINE

Greensboro College has a longtime tradition of graduates lining the walkway to applaud their faculty members as they process into the commencement ceremony. Conversely, faculty will line the walkway to applaud their graduates as they recess with their diplomas. Over the decades, this practice has been lovingly named, *The Long Green Line*.



The 13 flags behind the platform speakers represent the home nations of today's graduates. Greensboro College began this tradition with the 2016 Commencement. The college is laying the foundation to recruit and support an increasing number of international students and working to bring a broader, more global perspective to campus.





GREENSBORO  
COLLEGE

**Think critically. Act justly. Live faithfully.**

815 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27401  
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