



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 20, 2021

Halifax Community College will host Dr. Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education as the 2021 Graduation commencement speaker



*Dr. Miguel Cardona,
U.S. Secretary of Education*

WELDON, N.C. – Halifax Community College will host a virtual graduation on May 15, 2021, at noon for all students receiving associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates.

The 12th US Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Angel Cardona will present the commencement address. Dr. Cardona was confirmed by the U.S. Senate with a vote of 64–33 on March 1, 2021. Prior to his confirmation, he served as Connecticut Commissioner of Education from 2019 to 2021.

A native of Meriden, Connecticut, Dr. Cardona began his career at Israel Putnam Elementary School as a fourth-grade teacher in Meriden. In 2003, at the age of 27, he was named principal of Hanover School, also in Meriden, making him the youngest principal in the state.

“Secretary Cardona will bring a great message of hope, opportunity and possibilities for each graduate. The story of his personal journey within the American educational system will be an inspiration for our HCC graduates. Secretary Cardona’s commitment and dedication to the success of all students is evident by his acceptance of our invitation. We are extremely proud to have a member of the White House Cabinet addressing the Roanoke Valley. This is an exciting graduation even though it will differ from past years due to the circumstances we find ourselves in. We are grateful that Dr. Cardona accepted our invitation to deliver the commencement address and I am certain that our students will be greatly impacted by his words,” says Dr. Michael Elam, president of HCC.

HCC’s virtual graduation ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 15. Pre-graduation activities begin at 10:30 am and graduation begins at noon. The link for the graduation can be accessed on the home page at <http://www.halifaxcc.edu/>. Graduation is being held virtually due to the safety precautions in effect at HCC. The safety of students, faculty and staff are of the utmost priority

Halifax Community College’s Mission

Halifax Community College strives to meet the diverse needs of our community by providing high-quality, accessible and affordable education and services for a rapidly changing and globally competitive marketplace.

Media Contact: For more information on graduation, please contact Dr. Barbara Bradley-Hasty at 252-536-6386.