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COE President and CEO Dr. Kirk A. Nooks Delivers Keynote Address at Concorde Career College's Fall Commencement in Memphis



ATLANTA, GA — [October 23, 2026] — For graduates of Concorde Career College, Friday evening marked the culmination of years of preparation and the beginning of new opportunities in healthcare. On October 23, 2026, Dr. Kirk A. Nooks, President and CEO of the Council on Occupational Education (COE), delivered the keynote address during the college's Fall Commencement, joining graduates, families, faculty, and institutional leaders for a celebration of academic achievement and professional advancement.

Held at Greater Imani Church, The Cathedral of Faith, in Memphis, Tennessee, the ceremony honored graduates entering healthcare fields where technical expertise, sound judgment, and compassionate care are essential. Dr. Nooks' participation brought a national accreditation perspective to an occasion centered on student achievement and the transition from education to professional practice.

“It was an honor to share this important milestone with the graduates of Concorde Career College,” said Dr. Nooks. “Commencement is a powerful reminder of what education makes possible, not only for the individuals earning their credentials, but also for the families and communities whose lives will be touched by their work. I was grateful for the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and share in the excitement of what lies ahead.”

The evening featured reflections from Lamaj Harris, an Occupational Therapy Assistant student, and Anaya Banks, a Respiratory Therapy graduate, offering personal perspectives on the journey to graduation. Faculty recognitions, the presentation of diplomas and honors, and the Healthcare Professional Creed further marked the significance of the occasion and the professional commitments awaiting the graduates.

Dr. Terri Dowell-Kimble, Academic Dean at Concorde Career College’s Memphis campus and a member of the COE Commission, welcomed Dr. Nooks as the ceremony’s keynote speaker.

“It was a pleasure to have President Nooks join us for this special occasion,” said Dr. Dowell-Kimble. “His presence made this milestone even more meaningful for our graduates as they prepare to take the next step in their professional journeys.”

For Concorde Career College’s newest graduates, the ceremony represented both an accomplishment and a transition into professions that depend on a highly skilled, well-prepared workforce. Their achievement reflects the direct connection between career and technical education, and the healthcare services communities rely on every day.

For more information about the Council on Occupational Education, visit www.council.org.

About the Council on Occupational Education:

The Council on Occupational Education is a leading accreditor for over 500 postsecondary occupational education institutions in over 40 states. With a commitment to quality and continuous improvement, COE works to assure quality and integrity in career and technical education. For more information about the Council on Occupational Education and its mission, please visit www.council.org

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