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**Monroe University Honors Six Exceptional Faculty Members  
with 2025 Dr. W. Jeff Wallis Faculty of Distinction Award**

**BRONX, NY, July 25, 2025** – Monroe University, a national leader in educating urban and international students, proudly announces the 2025 recipients of its annual Dr. W. Jeff Wallis Faculty of Distinction Award: Professor Velda Burgess, Professor George Chin, Dr. Patricia Edwards, Professor Joshlyn Foreman, Dr. Elena Mashalova, and Dr. Delores Patterson.

This distinguished honor recognizes outstanding faculty whose dedication to student success, instructional excellence, and professional integrity exemplify the very best of Monroe's academic mission.

Named in honor of Dr. W. Jeff Wallis, former Vice President of Academics and a visionary advocate for student-centered learning, the award celebrates educators who continue his legacy of innovation, compassion, and educational impact. Each year, honorees are selected from a pool of peer-nominated faculty members who embody Monroe's commitment to transforming lives through education.

"This year's Faculty of Distinction honorees are true academic leaders," said Marc Jerome, President of Monroe University. "Through dynamic teaching, meaningful student engagement, and unwavering dedication to their disciplines, they inspire not only our students but also their fellow educators. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to each of them."

**2025 Honorees**

**Velda Burgess**, *School of Allied Health Professions*

**George Chin**, *School of Criminal and Social Justice*

**Dr. Patricia Edwards**, *General Education*

**Joshlyn Foreman**, *School of Criminal and Social Justice*

**Dr. Elena Mashalova**, *School of Allied Health Professions*

**Dr. Delores Patterson**, *School of Criminal and Social Justice*

The awards were announced during a faculty retreat held on Friday, July 18, near the University's New Rochelle campus. The event served not only as a celebration of the outstanding achievements of the award recipients but also as a dynamic forum for professional development, bringing together Monroe's full-time and adjunct faculty for a day of reflection, collaboration, and growth – and some fun, social activities as well.

## **ABOUT MONROE UNIVERSITY**

Founded in 1933, Monroe University is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The University is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students, and for the national recognition it receives for its strong impact on graduates' social mobility.

Monroe educates 9,000 students each year, offering Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs from New York campuses in the Bronx and New Rochelle, as well as in the Caribbean nation of Saint Lucia. Students may also pursue degree programs through Monroe Online. Programs are offered through Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management, Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through its King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available.

For more information and admissions criteria, please visit <http://www.monroeu.edu>.

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