

## **Commencement Symbolism**

Much of the symbolism found in academic ceremonies dates back to the Paris and Bologna universities of the 12th century, which were modeled on medieval craft guilds. Symbolism carried down through the intervening centuries continues to reflect the status and function of positions in academia and administration.

### **Colors**

The banners behind the stage feature the colors representative of areas of study completed by the CCRI graduating class. Banner colors featured for CCRI graduates are:

Arts - White  
Business - Drab  
Dental Studies - Lilac  
Education - Light Blue  
Engineering - Orange  
Fine Arts - Brown  
Health and Rehabilitative Sciences - Sage Green  
Law - Purple  
Nursing - Apricot  
Science - Gold  
Social Service - Citron

You may notice a wider variety of colors represented in the hoods worn by faculty, staff, administration and distinguished guests. The color of the velvet edge represents their academic discipline, while the satin lining carries the colors of the institution granting the degree. Variation in the size and shape of the hoods represents the achievement of various advanced degrees. Doctoral hoods are the most elaborate and weighty.

### **Mace**

The mace is carried by the grand marshal to symbolize the marshal's authority in formal protocol. The CCRI mace was presented to the college at the 1965 inauguration of the first president, Dr. William F. Flanagan, by the Honorable Florence K. Murray, associate justice of the Superior Court. It was, from then on, known as the Judge Murray Mace. The mace itself was designed and crafted by local artisan Alfredo Sciarrotta of Newport.

### **Medallion (Chain of Office)**

The president wears the presidential medallion on ceremonial occasions, symbolizing her civil position and responsibility for carrying out the mission and traditions of the college. The medallion was created, designed and donated by the talented employees at the Providence facility of Herff Jones Co. of Indiana Inc.

There are two components that make up the presidential medallion. The primary medallion depicts the college seal. The secondary medallion, a finely crafted combination of metal and

gemstones, includes the title of "President" and six gemstones. Four crystals represent each of the four campuses, and two green stones symbolize "access and opportunity."