Vaughn College Announces 86th Commencement Speaker: Rick Cotton, Executive Director of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Vaughn College will celebrate its 86th Commencement on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 10 a.m. in the William R. DeCota Hangar. Rick Cotton, Executive Director of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), will deliver the commencement address to more than 180 graduates.

FLUSHING, N.Y. (PRWEB) May 10, 2018 -- Vaughn College will celebrate its 86th Commencement on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 10 a.m. in the William R. DeCota Hangar. Rick Cotton, Executive Director of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), will deliver the commencement address to more than 180 graduates. He will also be awarded an honorary degree by President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo at the ceremony.

As executive director, Cotton is responsible for the entire agency that builds, operates, and maintains many of the most important transportation and trade infrastructure assets in the country, including a comprehensive $8 billion redevelopment of LaGuardia Airport that will result in an entirely new airport, and will be the first new airport constructed in the United States in more than 20 years.

“Vaughn College is proud to have Executive Director Cotton deliver the commencement address to our graduating students.” said DeVivo. “The role of The Port Authority in driving economic development for our region is critical and we will honor his role in leading that investment, most importantly, in our area airports. We look forward to his remarks about the future needs of the transportation industry and how Vaughn graduates can play a role in that development.”

Serving as Governor Cuomo's special counsellor for interagency initiatives, he was the point person within the Governor's office for most of the Governor's major downstate infrastructure priorities including LaGuardia Airport, John F. Kennedy International Airport, the Moynihan Train Hall and Penn-Farley Complex, the new Tappan Zee Bridge, the expansion of the Javits Center, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s Second Avenue subway project. Cotton joined the administration following 25 years at NBC Universal, where he held a number of positions including 20 years as executive vice president and general counsel, and four years in London as president and managing director of CNBC Europe.

He also served as executive secretary to the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare under Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr. and special assistant for renewable energy to Deputy Secretary of Energy John Sawhill at the United States Department of Energy.

Cotton holds a bachelor of arts degree from Harvard College and a juris doctor degree in law from Yale Law School. He also served as a law clerk to Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. of the United States Supreme Court.

About Vaughn
Founded in 1932, Vaughn College is a private, nonprofit, four-year college that enrolls more than 1,500 students in master’s, bachelor’s and associate degree programs in engineering, technology, management and aviation on its main campus in New York City and online. The student-faculty ratio of 14 to 1 ensures a highly personalized learning environment. Ninety-two percent of Vaughn College graduates are placed in professional positions or choose to continue their education within one year of graduation. They work in 20 countries and all
50 states. The institution serves many first-generation college students and is recognized by the US Department of Education as a Hispanic-Serving Institution. For more information, visit www.vaughn.edu.
Contact Information
Maureen Kiggins
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
http://https://www.vaughn.edu/
718.429.6600 x113

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