

# Commencement Program



University of Nebraska Medical Center  
December 19, 2025

## ORDER OF EXERCISE

December 19, 2025

Omaha, Nebraska

H. Dele Davies, MD, MS, MHCM, Interim Chancellor, Presiding

PROCESSIONAL: Pomp and Circumstance..... Edward Elgar  
(The audience will stand during the Processional)

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION\*\* ..... ABIGAIL GRACE HALL  
(The audience will remain standing) Graduate College

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

REGENT'S WELCOME

HONORARY DOCTORATE..... JANE MEZA, PHD  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES/CERTIFICATES..... H. DELE DAVIES, MD, MS, MHCM  
Interim Chancellor

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS/CERTIFICATES ..... BY THE DEANS

COLLEGE OF NURSING ..... LEPAINE SHARP-MCHENRY, DNP, RN, FACDONA  
Dean, College of Nursing

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ..... KYLE P. MEYER, PHD, MS, PT, FASAHP  
Dean, College of Allied Health Professions

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH..... ALI S. KHAN, MD, MPH, MBA  
Dean, College of Public Health

GRADUATE COLLEGE ..... KAREN GOULD, PHD  
Interim Dean, Graduate Studies

CLOSING REMARKS ..... H. DELE DAVIES, MD, MS, MHCM  
Interim Chancellor

BENEDICTION\*\* ..... ABIGAIL GRACE HALL  
(The audience will remain standing) Graduate College

RECESSIONAL ..... (The audience will remain standing)

## International Pledge for Nurses

- In full knowledge of the obligations I am undertaking, I promise to care for the sick with all the skill and understanding I possess, without regard to race, creed, color, politics or social status, sparing no effort to conserve life, to alleviate suffering and to promote health.
- I will respect at all times the dignity and religious beliefs of the patients under my care, holding in confidence all personal information entrusted to me, and refrain from any action which might endanger life or health.
  - I will endeavor to keep my professional knowledge and skill at the highest level and to give loyal support and cooperation to all members of the health team.
  - I will do my utmost to honor the international code of ethics applied to nursing and to uphold the integrity of the professional nurse.

## Physician Assistant Professional Oath

- I pledge to perform the following duties with honesty and dedication:
- I will hold as my primary responsibility, the health, safety, welfare and dignity of all human beings.
  - I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice.
  - I will recognize and promote the value of diversity.
  - I will treat equally all persons who seek my care.
  - I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.
  - I will assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve my medical practice.
  - I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine.
  - I will work with other members of the health care team to provide compassionate and effective care of patients.
  - I will use my knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.
  - I will respect my professional relationship with the physician.
  - I will share and expand knowledge within the profession.
- These duties are pledged with sincerity and upon my honor.

## Graduate Student Oath

- I faithfully pledge to uphold my professional integrity by maintaining the highest standard of ethics and quality in my pursuit of academic and professional excellence.

- I will uphold an unwavering commitment to report and interpret my research or professional findings with steadfast honesty and clarity.
  - I pledge to share openly and generously, my discoveries, obstacles and triumphs. I will work to improve our world through communication with peers and teaching students of all ages.
  - I will strive to be continually conscious of the responsibility that accompanies the endowment of my degree.
- It is with tremendous pride and enthusiasm that I seal my commitment to advance humanity through extraordinary biomedical research, teaching or provision of service.

## Explanation of Physician's Oath

The Declaration of Geneva was promulgated by the World Medical Association in 1948. It has its roots in the great moral traditions that go back to ancient Greek Hippocratic medicine. It also seriously reflects the times in which it was written. That was immediately after World War II when the crimes of men against humanity were being revealed through such things at the Nuremberg Trial.

### Physician's Oath

(Modified Declaration of Geneva)

- Now, being admitted to the profession of medicine, I solemnly pledge to consecrate my life to the service of humanity. I will practice medicine with conscience and dignity; the health and life of my patient will be my first consideration. I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, never using my knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity.
- I will hold in confidence all that my patient confides in me.
  - I will not permit race, religion, nationality, party, politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient. I will follow that method of treatment which I consider to be of greatest benefit, and never hesitate to confer with my colleagues in my patient's behalf. I will learn to distinguish when to treat aggressively and when to restrain my hand in the face of greater power.
  - I will maintain the honor and noble traditions of the medical profession. I will recognize hard-won scientific gains, and share my knowledge with those who follow. I will treat with respect all others in my profession. These promises I make freely and upon my honor.

## HONORARY DOCTORATE OF SCIENCE

Eric Matteson, MD, is awarded the honorary Doctor of Science degree for achievement in science and his service to our nation, as a physician, educator and researcher, and as a humanitarian.

Dr. Matteson, a University of Nebraska–Lincoln alumnus, is emeritus John F. Finn Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic and was chair of its rheumatology division for 10 years. Mayo Clinic’s rheumatology division returned to national and international prominence under his leadership, tripling in size and academic productivity during this time. Dr. Matteson’s own scholarship has produced more than 500 journal articles and 60 book chapters. He’s delivered lectures and presentations at meetings, conferences and symposia around the world.

He’s also advanced the field through his study of medical history. Dr. Matteson, fluent in German, has made a worldwide impact through his examination of original medical manuscripts, some of which were the result of medical experimentation upon prisoners in concentration camps during World War II.



“This speaks volumes of his leadership, persistence and his humanity,” said James O’Dell, MD, who was among those who nominated Dr. Matteson for this honor. “He has made giant contributions to the rheumatological world but also has a profound dedication to righting past wrongs and contributing to the overall good.”

Dr. Matteson is a national figure in the rheumatology field, having held several leadership positions within the American College of Rheumatology and the American College of Physicians. He is former president of the Rheumatology Research Foundation, the nation’s largest private funder of rheumatology research.

He is known for giving hours upon hours of his time as a volunteer at state and national parks, as well as through Habitat for Humanity and his hometown public library. He also volunteers his time and expertise as a physician and rheumatologist at free public health clinics, including through the Salvation Army.

He served as a major in the medical corps in the United States Army Reserve.

Among numerous awards and honors for teaching, clinical care and scholarship, Dr. Matteson was the recipient of the Hero Award from the Arthritis Foundation.

He was Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, where he studied political science and German. Dr. Matteson earned his medical degree at Friedrich–Alexander University, Erlangen–Nuremberg, Germany. He also studied at its nursing school. He was an intern and resident in the Michigan State University system (SMAHEC) and a fellow at the University of Michigan and the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Matteson later earned a Master of Public Health degree at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The University of Nebraska is proud to award the honorary Doctor of Science degree to Eric Matteson, MD.

## CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

December 19, 2025

Omaha

### COLLEGE OF NURSING

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Faith Amelia Allgood, *Auburn*  
 Geoffrey O. Ambunya, *Nebraska*  
 Skylar Arkfeld, *Wynot*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Brecken Arkle, *Kearney*, **Distinction**  
 Addison Renee Barnard, *Beatrice*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Kylie Patricia Beck, *Bellevue*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Cecilia Lynn Behrens, *Fort Calhoun*  
 Kalyn Marie Bitner, *Minden*  
 Emma Brant, *Papillion*  
 Linh Bui, *Vietnam*  
 Caitlyn Camp, *Papillion*  
 Rebekah Marie Carlson, *Seward*, **High Distinction**  
 Wei-Qi Abigail Chan, *Lincoln*  
 Lizbeth Daniela Chavez, *Grand Island*  
 Ariella Ruby Cole, *Seward*  
 Sadie S. Cooley, *Morrill*, **High Distinction**  
 Taylar Marie Eikmeier, *Aurora*, **Academic Excellence**  
 Kaylene Eleanor Ford, *Lennox*, *SD*  
 Carly D. Freiberg, *Omaha* \*  
 Janinne Abigail Garcia Medina, *South Sioux City* \*  
 Jade Andrea Gleason, *Brush*, *CO*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Kyerie Elizabeth Goddard, *Sedgwick*, *CO*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Elizabeth Rose Graham, *Gallup*, *NM*  
 Steven Gu, *Cincinnati*, *OH*, **Distinction**  
 Annica Leigh Harm, *Gothenburg*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Holly Harms, *Parshall*, *CO*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Regina Lee Harsh, *Scottsbluff* \*  
 Heather Helmke, *Lincoln*, **Distinction**  
 Skye Maire Hiser, *Lincoln*  
 Isabela Soleil Hovorka, *Omaha*  
 Megan Elise Howell, *Prairie Village*, *KS*  
 Emily Noel Jamal, *Omaha*, **High Distinction**  
 Nicole R. Jelinek, *Anaheim*, *CA*, **High Distinction**  
 Sebastiano Phillip Jennings, *Omaha*  
 Kayla Marie Johnson, *Omaha*  
 Elizabeth Gayle Jorgensen, *Curtis*  
 Kay Ray Jue, *Omaha*  
 Elena Marie Kaiser, *Austria*  
 Emma Keaschall, *Pleasanton*, **Distinction**  
 Kelsey Marie Kermmoade, *Alma* \*  
 Amy Kinser, *Elkhorn*, **Academic Excellence**

Megan Dara Lampe, *North Platte*, **Academic Excellence**  
 Jenna Lawrence, *Columbus*  
 Honnah Dove Leo, *Omaha*  
 Hawley Kay Lister, *Benkelman*  
 Raegan Emily Marshall, *Yuba City*, *CA*, **High Distinction**  
 Abigail Marie McGonigal, *Omaha*  
 Bailey McLellan, *Lincoln*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Esmeralda Yasmin Mendez Ortiz, *Kearney*  
 Kyla Jaden Michalak, *Dakota Dunes*, *SD*  
 Miriam Elizabeth Miller, *Walton*  
 Julie Elizabeth Nahimov, *Omaha*  
 Paige Ann Nelson, *Newman Grove*, **Distinction**  
 Nathan Robert Nordby-Bryson, *Hastings*  
 Loretta Agyeiwaa Nterful, *Kearney* \*  
 Kimberly Lynn Partch, *Omaha*  
 Kira Perez, *Gering*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Kaci Lynn Pierce, *Pleasanton*  
 Ashton Renee Rauert, *York*  
 Madelynn Faye Robinson, *Kearney*  
 Madison Lynn Rosenthal, *Johnstown*, *CO*, **High Distinction**  
 Mia Sawtelle, *Omaha*  
 Taylor Ann Schaaf, *Atkinson*  
 Aryn Seiler, *Grant*  
 Ashleigh Shafer, *Omaha*  
 Gabriella Rene Shell, *Omaha*, **Distinction**  
 Emma Rose Smidt, *Grand Island*  
 Nicole Smith, *Omaha*  
 Christian Michael Stanislav, *Glenwood*, *IA*  
 Breanna Kay Steffes, *North Platte*  
 Adaline Sullivan, *Brainard*  
 Makenna Lexus Taake, *Battle Creek*, **High Distinction**  
 Tanya Lynette Trevino, *Omaha*  
 Madison Morgan Turpen, *Hastings*  
 Emily Kristine Uhrmacher, *Hastings*  
 Lauren Quinn Vandenberg, *David City*  
 Dillon James VanOrnam, *Omaha*  
 Emily Elizabeth Varner, *Lincoln*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Elaine Unique Velez, *Omaha*  
 Rebecca Nesha Waters, *Albuquerque*, *NM*  
 Ragan Michelle Wood, *Greeley*, **High Distinction**  
 Mitzi P. Wyant, *West Point* \*

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\* Degree awarded in August 2025

## COLLEGE OF NURSING (CONTINUED)

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

May Amarachi Asuoha, *Nigeria*  
Theresa Marie Kinnison, *Omaha*  
Haylie Rhianne Krone, *Omaha*

### POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN NURSING

Lisa Lynn Salisbury, *Scottsbluff*  
Betty Steer, *Westminster, CO*

### DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Morgan Marie Bathke, *Dixon*  
Renee Lynn Paulin, *Omaha \**  
Bridget Maria Spring, *Fort Collins, CO*



## COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Tasha L. Knaub, *Scottsbluff*  
Kelly M. White, *Maurice, LA, Highest Distinction*

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL IMAGING & THERAPEUTIC SCIENCES

Cara Galois, *Hershey, High Distinction*  
Shirley Adan Lockman, *Omaha \**  
Marisa Reese, *Birmingham, AL \**

### MASTER OF DIAGNOSTIC CYTOLOGY

Gieselle Deanne Alarcon, *Santa Clarita, CA*  
Sierra Born, *Barrington, IL, Highest Distinction*  
Ana Clarissa Boyle, *Tolleson, AZ*  
Glory Noel Brown, *Dallas, TX*  
Victoria Alexandra Buchcik, *Pleasant Hill, CA, High Distinction*  
Michael Deja, *Largo, FL*  
Autumn Hebert Delahoussaye, *Erath, LA*  
Marlie Fistick, *Tampa, FL, Highest Distinction*  
Tongju Guan, *Morgantown, WV, Highest Distinction*  
Claudia Beatriz Guzman Jovel, *Worcester, MA, High Distinction*  
Paiton Elaine Hancock, *Arvada, CO, Highest Distinction*  
Ashley Ann McCauley, *Ogden, UT, Distinction*

Katie Cole McManigal, *Morgantown, WV, Highest Distinction*  
Zainab M. Mohamed, *Omaha, High Distinction*  
Moya Bishop Murray, *Omaha*  
Sarah Elizabeth Ann Ogg, *Sterling, IL, Highest Distinction*  
Elsbeth A. Peterson, *Lakeville, MN, High Distinction*  
Cinthia Garcia Rivera, *Phoenix, AZ*  
Alexis D. Ruiz, *Tempe, AZ, High Distinction*  
Vanessa Marie Salemi, *Suffield, CT, Highest Distinction*  
Nikolas Stipanicev, *Chicago, IL*  
Caroline Grace Valnes, *Rowlett, TX, Highest Distinction*

### MASTER OF MEDICAL NUTRITION

Emily Rose Allen, *Blue Springs, MO, High Distinction*  
Audrey Lynn Arnold, *Glenwood, IA, Highest Distinction*  
Maggie Mae Boruf, *Carson, IA, Distinction*  
Chanel Gonzalez-Jimenez, *Aibonito, PR, Highest Distinction*  
Hannah Marie Harrison, *Gothenburg, Highest Distinction*  
Kennedy Jo Jones, *Columbus, Highest Distinction*

Audra Jade Joyce, *Giltner, Highest Distinction*  
Rebekah Lyn Kleinschmit, *Hartington, NJ, High Distinction*  
Stephanie Yvonne Kloucek, *Omaha, Distinction*  
Kirsten Michelle Milam, *Newman Grove, High Distinction*  
Kali Colette Paulson, *Lincoln, High Distinction*  
Emma Louise Peterson, *Elkhorn, High Distinction*

### MASTER OF PERFUSION SCIENCE

Tyler Laird, *Canada, Highest Distinction*  
Jenna A. Nunziata, *Durham, NC, High Distinction*  
Kyle Penner, *Canada, Highest Distinction*

## COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS (CONTINUED)

### MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Madison Aspegren, *Alma*, **Distinction**  
 Ali Jo Bartels, *Gothenburg*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Rhianna W. Becker, *Lincoln*  
 Brooke Nicole Becker, *Hastings*  
 Zoe Tate Bour, *Sioux Falls, SD*  
 Jayden Brammier, *Weeping Water*  
 Taylor Marie Burghardt, *Omaha*  
 Christian Joseph Cattau, *Norfolk*  
 Emily Elizabeth Champion, *Omaha*, **Distinction**  
 Jolie Wingka Chan, *St. Louis, MO*  
 Kaitlyn Rose Chavira, *Lakewood, CO*  
 Brianna Jaine Danehey, *Blue Hill*  
 Jaci Rae Dietz, *Kearney*  
 Lindsey Ann Dittmar, *Sumner*  
 Will Joseph Fehringer, *Bloomfield*, **High Distinction**  
 Edgar William Ficke-Anderson, *Walker, MN*  
 Bailey Ray Flores, *Colorado Springs, CO*, **High Distinction**  
 Evan James Forney, *Bellwood*  
 Abigail Marie Frick, *Waverly*, **Distinction**  
 Kayla Gaertig, *Beatrice*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Daisy Gomez, *Omaha*  
 Walter Joseph Graham, *Corpus Christi, TX*, **High Distinction**  
 Taylor Elaine Hankins, *Johnstown, CO*  
 Brooklyn Rose Hannan, *Kansas City, MO*  
 Namratha Jampana, *Canada*, **Distinction**  
 Kyler Michelle Johnson, *Bridgeport*  
 Caitlynn Leigh Kliem, *Lawrence, KS*  
 Daniela Paola Lagunas, *Hastings*  
 Sydney Lee Lambert, *Colorado Springs, CO*

Camryn E. Larsen, *Elkhorn*  
 Emily Aurie Lawrence, *Watertown, SD*, **Distinction**  
 James Patrick Lesiak, *Fullerton*, **High Distinction**  
 Lucas Matthew Long, *Bellevue*, **Distinction**  
 Lauren Longyear, *Lafayette, CA*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Georgia Lynn Miller, *Omaha*  
 Tara Lynn Miller, *Merna*  
 Carson Douglas Minick, *Lafayette, IN*  
 Janae Barbara Olson, *Spokane, WA*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Wade Charles Ott, *Omaha*, **High Distinction**  
 Matthew Keyes Pereira, *Stuart, FL*  
 Sydney Rae Petersen, *Omaha*, **High Distinction**  
 Marie Eileen Powers, *Omaha*  
 Makayla Ann Rice, *Lincoln*  
 Abigail Ann Russman, *Edgemont, SD*  
 Simran Dharmesh Shah, *Paxton*  
 Claire Marie Sorrell, *Kearney*, **Distinction**  
 Joycin Nicole Stonacek, *Lincoln*  
 Keenan Quinn Taylor, *Omaha*  
 Olivia Grace Thompson, *Gretna*  
 Liza Ann Thurman, *Papillion*  
 Emily Elizabeth Tostenson, *Plymouth, MN*, **Distinction**  
 Leah Haley Vanderhorst, *West Charlton, NY*, **High Distinction**  
 Makenna VanLengen, *Gilbert, AZ*  
 Alejandro Josue Vargas, *Omaha*, **Distinction**  
 Joycelyn Maria Vazquez, *South Sioux City*  
 Lilly Zhou, *Lincoln*

### DOCTOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE

Kurt Andree, *Omaha*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Carissa Bowie, *Bondurant, IA*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Kyle Alan Brown, *Sterling, CO*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Alicia Lynn Burns, *Queen Creek, AZ*, **Distinction**  
 Jasmin S. Butler, *San Antonio, TX*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Troy Peter Cyr, *Newburgh, ME*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Michael John Day, *Petal, MS*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Samantha Brianne Dellinger, *Papillion*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Tamara Ryan Dietze, *Winnetoan*, **Highest Distinction**

Elijah Nathanael Geesaman, *Aubrey, TX*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Darcy Marie Jones, *Omaha*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Jeffery Michael Lerma, *Puyallup, WA*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Michael Joseph Marchante, *Murrieta, CA*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Allison McGinley, *Council Bluffs, IA*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Joshua Cadenas Saniel, *San Antonio, TX*, **Highest Distinction**  
 Julian Ray Quirino Tayag, *Philippines*, **Highest Distinction**



## COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

### CERTIFICATE OF SPECIALIZATION ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS

Rehana Bashir, B.D.S., M.D.S.  
Jonjei Ku, D.D.S.  
Nam Tuan Ha, D.D.S.

## COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Nikkola Joanna Bales, *Shorewood, IL*  
Paige Berman, *Reisterstown, MD*  
Claire Marie Covert-ByBee, *Lincoln\**  
Ryan Allen Daly, *Omaha*  
Jason L. Hutchison, *Lincoln*  
Vasisht Karri, *Frisco, TX\**

Natalie Liu, *Joplin, MO*  
Mia Elizabeth Parker, *Brookings, SD*  
Simeon Sawadogo, *Ouagadougou \**  
Matthew Michael Stern, *Lincoln*  
Nicole Tuzicka, *Gurley*  
Hannah VanderPutten, *Firth*

### MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Lani Ngan Bui, *Wichita, KS, Highest Distinction*  
Chandra Luckie Cummins-Zimmerman, *Omaha*  
Rachel Lynn McInerney, *St. Petersburg, FL\**  
Chibuikwe Ezennaya Nduanya, *Nigeria, Highest Distinction*

### MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Diana Carolina Andrade, *Parkland, FL, High Distinction*  
Kiersten Astarita, *Independence, MO, High Distinction*  
Allison Ferro, *Stamford, CT, Distinction*  
Andrew Hills, *York\**  
Holly Johnson, *Medical Lake, WA, Distinction*  
Destinee King, *Omaha, Highest Distinction*  
Brandy Marie Leaver, *Omaha*  
Macy Lloyd, *Lincoln, High Distinction*  
Lauren J. Maskin, *Omaha, High Distinction*  
Skye Marie Medcraft, *Dallas, TX*  
Hind Murad, *El Cajon, CA, Distinction*  
Emily Ha-Phuong Nguyen, *Wichita, KS, Distinction*  
Erin Rose Noga, *Paxton, IL, High Distinction*  
Nicole Elizabeth Placke, *St. Libory, Highest Distinction*  
Jaila J'Nae Randle, *Kansas City, KS\**

Fizza Raza, *Pakistan*  
Quinton Schnier, *Clinton, IA, Highest Distinction*  
Clare Schutte, *Columbus, OH*  
Stephanie Namatama Siyumbwa, *Zambia\**  
Caroline Renee Smetanka, *Littleton, CO, Highest Distinction*  
Sierra Grace Smith, *Freeport, ME\**  
Jeanne Marie VanOrsdal, *Quitman, GA, High Distinction*  
Cady A. Walker, *Salix, IA\**  
Amrina Shafi Wani, *Distinction*  
Samantha Justine Wantz, *Zanesville, OH\**  
Kellie Waugh, *Chadron\**  
Tempie Louise Wyatt, *Cleveland, TX*  
Aisha Zahid, *Omaha, Highest Distinction,*

### DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Maman Fathim Kamagate, *Texas \**  
Runi Mukesh Patel, *Burlington Township, NJ, Highest Distinction*  
Ester Moses Sikare, *Decatur, GA, High Distinction*

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## GRADUATE STUDIES

### MASTER OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS TEACHING & TECHNOLOGY

Kristy Renae Crow, Washington, IA \*  
Angela Kay Cyza, Columbus  
Gina Lynn Kissel, Kearney \*

Kateralnada Salahuddin Mahdi, Lincoln \*  
Lauren Michelle Schiefelbein, Omaha  
Hilary Vazquez, Plainfield, IL \*

### MASTER OF HEALTHCARE DELIVERY SCIENCE

Kesha DeGroff, Broken Bow  
Hope Dillman-Gearhart, Lincoln \*  
Jaiden Einspahr, Omaha

Sarah Lynn Lindner, Kearney \*  
Shane Weyrich, Scottsbluff

### MASTER OF SCIENCE

Hamed Abbasi, Zanjan \*  
Kayla Marie Adams, Gretna \*  
Samia Akter, Bangladesh \*  
Rehana Bashir, India  
Lidia Boghean, Brookville, PA \*  
Daniela Castillo Daura  
Christopher Robert D'Angelo, Bennington  
Katheryn Taylor Evans, Logan, UT  
Min Sze Ewe, Malaysia  
Faith M. Gomez, Roscoe, IL  
Marco A. Gonzalez, Panama  
Jampa Lhamo Gurung, Nepal \*  
Nam Tuan Ha, Chantilly, VA

Brylie Peg Hartwig, Cortland  
Marjina Akter Kalpana, Omaha \*  
Amit Chetan Kolhe, India \*  
Jonjei Ku, San Jose, CA  
Zainab Damilola Lawal, Nigeria \*  
Brent Allan Luedders, Gretna  
Callie Jo Martin, Lincoln \*  
Rosemary Mueni Mwithiga, Kenya  
Kaitlyn Nesbitt, Omaha \*  
Richard Mlewa Ngaya, Tulsa, OK \*  
Zalak Sheth, India \*  
Katelyn Donna Thompson, Lincoln

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Daniel Neil Ackerman, *Frederick, MD*; BS, 2014, Penn State University  
Suraj Adhikari, *Sauk Rapids, MN*; Bachelor's, 2011, *Tribhuvan University (Nepal)*; MS, 2016, *Tennessee State University*  
Nusrat Ahmed, *Bangladesh*; Bachelor's, 2013, *University of Dhaka (Bangladesh)*; Master's, 2015, *University of Dhaka (Bangladesh)* \*  
Rishad Ahmed, *Bangladesh*; Bachelor's, 2013, *University of Dhaka (Bangladesh)*; Master's, 2016, *University of Dhaka (Bangladesh)* \*  
Namita Bhyravbhatla, *Westborough, MA*; Bachelor's, 2017, *Manipal Academy of Higher Education (India)*; Master's, 2019, *Manipal Academy of Higher Education (India)*  
Reece Blay, *Council Bluffs, IA*; BS, 2021, *Morningside University* \*  
Madeline R. Cloonan, *Omaha*; BS, 2017, *Truman State University*; MD, 2021, *University of Nebraska Medical Center* \*  
Apu Chandra Das, *Bangladesh*; Bachelor's, 2017, *University of Dhaka (Bangladesh)*; MS, 2020, *Univeristy of Arkansas*  
Desiree Jo Dawson, *Carroll, IA*; BA, 2014, *Midland University*; Master's, 2018, *University of Houston-Clear Lake*  
Arjun Dhir, *India*; MS, 2015, *University of Calcutta* \*  
Louise Frances Dow, *United Kingdom*; Bachelor's, 2016, *Heriot-Watt University (United Kingdom)*; Master's, 2016, *Heriot-Watt University (United Kingdom)* \*  
Alexandra A. Farfalla, *Omaha*; BA, 2009, *University of Nebraska at Omaha*; Master's, 2015, *University of Nebraska at Omaha*; Master of Public Health, 2017, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*  
Mahek Fatima, *India*; Bachelor's, 2017, *University of Delhi (India)*; Master's, 2019, *Amity Univeristy, Uttar Pradesh (India)*  
Valerie Jean Fousek-Schuller, *Central City*; Central City, NE; BS, 2019, *Wayne State College*  
Abigail Grace Hall, *Raleigh, NC*; BS, 2021, *The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill*  
Zeinab Hedroj, *Lebanon*; MS, 2022, *Montana State University*  
Kirsten Hepburn Callaghan, *Lincoln*; BS in Studio Art, 2004, *University of Nebraska at Omaha*; BSN, 2016, *University of Nebraska Medical Center* \*

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## GRADUATE STUDIES (CONTINUED)

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (CONTINUED)

Jordan Bennett Hernandez, *Clarinda, IA*; BS, 2018, Morningside College  
 Shaun C. Horak, *Omaha*; BA, 2001, Hastings College; MPAS, 2003, University of Nebraska Medical Center  
 Dianna Hope Huisman, *Osage, IA*; BA, 2018, University of Northern Iowa\*  
 Yuanyuan Ji, *China*; Bachelor's, 2016, Southern Medical University (China); MS, 2018, Georgetown University\*  
 Catherine Siena Johnson, *China*; BA, 2019, Ave Maria University  
 Tate Johnson, *North Bend*; BS in Education & Human Sciences, 2011, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; MD, 2016, University of Nebraska Medical Center\*  
 Kayla Jonas, *Boise, ID*; BS, 2020, Boise State University\*  
 Md. Arafat Khan, *Bangladesh*; Bachelor's, 2017, BRAC University (Bangladesh); Master's, 2019, BRAC University (Bangladesh) \*  
 Sadie Anne Klein, *Columbia, MO*; BS, 2019, Missouri Southern State University  
 Sai Sundeep Kollala, *India*; Bachelor's, 2014, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (India); MS, 2017, University of Nevada, Reno  
 Neha Kumari, *India*; Bachelor's, 2020, Institute of Chemical Technology (India)  
 Stephanie Dawn Lough, *Omaha*; BA, 1990, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; BS in Radiation Science Technology, 2007, University of Nebraska Medical Center; Master of Health Professions Teaching & Technology, 2018, University of Nebraska Medical Center  
 Raheleh Mohammadi, *Iran*; ; Bachelor's, 2014, Islamic Azad University (Iran); MPH, 2019, Rollins College  
 Molly Suzanne Myers, *Omaha*; BS in Business Administration, 2020, Creighton University  
 Krishtee Napit, *Nepal*; Bachelor's, 2009, Kathmandu University (Nepal); Master's, 2015, Tribhuvan University (Nepal) \*  
 Paige Elizabeth O'Neill, *Canada*; BS, 2016, McMaster University (Canada); MA, 2021, Brock University (Canada)\*  
 Qiaoyu Pan, *China*; Bachelor's, 2019, China Pharmaceutical University\*  
 Kabita Pandey, *Nepal*; Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, 2014, Tribhuvan University (Nepal); MS, 2018, South Dakota State University\*  
 Aramis José Pereira, *Brazil*; Bachelor's, 2010, State University of West Paraná (Brazil); Master's, 2013, Federal University of Paraná (Brazil) \*  
 Misty Pocwierz-Gaines, *Battle Creek*; BS, 2010, Cornell University; MA, 2021, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
 Mark Warren Primeaux, *Ponca City, OK*; BS, 2009, University of MA Amherst \*  
 Christabelle Rajesh, *India*; BS, 2018, University of Mumbai (India) \*  
 Ashley Rose Ravnholdt, *Omaha*; BS, 2021, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
 Priscila Rodrigues Armijo, *Brazil*; MD, 2015, Federal University of Sao Paulo (Brazil)  
 Erin Leigh Salahshurian, *Omaha*; BA, 2002, University of Colorado; BSN, 2004, Creighton University \*  
 Maria Jose Sanchez Roman, *Ecuador*; Doctor of Medicine, 2012, Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador; MPH, 2020, George Washington University\*  
 Natalia Barbeiro Santos, *Brazil*; BS in Education & Human Sciences, 2013, University of Nebraska - Lincoln; MPH, 2016, The University of Iowa\*  
 Gabrielle Frances Schulze, *Omaha*; BA, 2016, University of Nebraska at Omaha; MS, 2018, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
 Caroline Elizabeth Seilstad, *Council Bluffs, IA*; BS, 2016, York College  
 Kasturi Siddhanta, *India*; Bachelor's, 2016, University of Delhi (India); Master's, 2018, Madurai Kamaraj University  
 Sydney Ann Skupa, *Campbell*; BS, 2020, Nebraska Wesleyan University\*  
 Jessica Pham Tran, *Lincoln*; BA, 2016, Creighton University; MS, 2022, Lipscomb University\*  
 Sarah June Tucker, *Skaneateles, NY*; BS, 2015, Florida State University; MS, 2021, University of Florida\*  
 Savanna Autumn Wallin, *Bellevue*; BS, 2019, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
 Runqiu Wang, *China*; Bachelor's, 2017, Hong Kong Baptist University; MS, 2018, Georgetown University\*  
 Rachel A. Wenzl, *Genoa*; BS in Business Administration, 2006, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; MPH, 2018, University of Nebraska Medical Center\*  
 Anne Therese Woodruff Jameson, *Omaha*; BA, 2010, Truman State University; DPT, 2015, Univeristy of Nebraska Medical Center  
 Xiaoke Xu, *China* \*  
 Poonam Yadav, *India*; MD, 2011, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (India)

\* Degree awarded in August 2025

Honors may not be final and are subject to change

## HONORS & AWARDS

### COLLEGE OF NURSING HONORS & AWARDS

#### IRMA KYLE KRAMER AWARD FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Skylar Arkfeld  
Addison Renee Barnard  
Kylie Patricia Beck  
Jade Andrea Gleason Kyerie  
Elizabeth Goddard

Annica Leigh Harm  
Holly Harms  
Bailey McLellan  
Kira Perez  
Emily Elizabeth Varner

#### SIGMA THETA TAU

Faith Allgood  
Skylar Arkfeld  
Brecken Arkle  
Kylie Patricia Beck Cecilia  
Lynn Behrens Emma Brant  
Linh Bui  
Rebekah Marie Carlson  
Wei-Qi Abigail Chan Sadie  
S. Cooley  
Kaylene Eleanor Ford Jade  
Andrea Gleason Kyerie  
Elizabeth Goddard  
Elizabeth Rose Graham  
Holly Harms  
Heather Helmke  
Skye Hiser  
Isabela Soleil Hovorka  
Megan Howell  
Emily Noel Jamal  
Nicole R. Jelinek  
Elizabeth Gayle Jorgensen

Kay Ray Jue  
Emma Keaschall  
Theresa Marie Kinnison  
Honnah Dove Leo  
Raegan Emily Marshall  
Abigail Marie McGonigal  
Bailey McLellan  
Esmeralda Yasmin Mendez Ortiz  
Kyla Michalak  
Kira Perez  
Kaci Lynn Pierce  
Madison Lynn Rosenthal  
Lisa Lynn Salisbury  
Taylor Ann Schaaf  
Ashleigh Shafer  
Gabriella Rene Shell  
Emma Rose Smidt  
Christian Michael Stanislav  
Dillon James VanOrnam  
Elaine Unique Velez  
Ragan Michelle Wood

### COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS HONORS & AWARDS

#### PI ALPHA

Emily Elizabeth Champion  
Walter Joseph Graham  
Brooklyn Rose Hannan  
Namratha Jampana

James Patrick Lesiak  
Lauren Longyear  
Janae Barbara Olson  
Sydney Rae Petersen

#### ALPHA ETA

Katie Cole McManigal  
Sarah Elizabeth Ann Ogg  
Vanessa Marie Salemi  
Chanel Gonzalez-Jimenez  
Hannah Marie Harrison  
Audra Jade Joyce  
Ali Jo Bartels

Bailey Ray Flores  
Walter Joseph Graham  
James Patrick Lesiak  
Lauren Longyear  
Sydney Rae Petersen  
Leah Haley Vanderhorst

## **GRADUATE COLLEGE HONORS & AWARDS**

### **GRADUATE STUDENT OF DISTINCTION**

Louise Frances Dow  
Abigail Grace Hall  
Natalia Barbeiro Santos  
Kasturi Siddhanta

### **FACULTY AWARDS**

FACULTY IP INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION (FIPICA) AWARD RECIPIENT:  
Thanh Nguyen, PHD, MSN, FNP-C

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY (ORCA) AWARD RECIPIENTS:  
Jay Storz, PHD  
Timothy Schaffert, MFA

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL CREATIVITY AWARD (OTICA) RECIPIENTS:  
Betsy J. Becker, PT, DPT, PHD  
Renee McFee, DVM, PHD

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AWARD (IDEA) RECIPIENTS:  
Gina Ligon, PHD  
Károly Mirnics, MD, PHD



## **THE COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE**

The planning of the 2025 December Commencement was conducted by the UNMC Office of Academic Records in the Division of Student Success.

### **MARSHALS FOR THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE (wearing red robes)**

Kelly Buchanan, MSN, College of Nursing  
JoEllyn McMillan, PhD, College of Public Health  
Aaron Mohs, PhD, Graduate College  
Tiffany Moore, PhD, College of Nursing

## GOVERNANCE

### BOARD OF REGENTS

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JIM SCHEER, BS, Norfolk, Vice Chair  
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ELIZABETH O'CONNOR, JD, Omaha  
ROBERT SCHAFER, JD, Beatrice  
JACK A. STARK, PhD, Omaha  
BARBARA WEITZ, MPA, MSW, Omaha  
KATHY WILMOT, BS, Beaver City  
DREW LEISY, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
BROCK CALAMARI, University of Nebraska Medical Center  
LIBBY WILKINS, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
SAM SCHROEDER, University of Nebraska at Kearney

### UNIVERSITY-WIDE ADMINISTRATION

JEFFREY P. GOLD, MD, President  
DAVID S. JACKSON, PhD, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost  
KATIE J. HOFFMAN, JD, Corporation Secretary  
NEAL SCHNOOR, Interim Chancellor, University of Nebraska at Kearney  
RODNEY D. BENNETT, EdD, Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
H. DELE DAVIES, MD, MS, MHCM, Interim Chancellor, University of Nebraska Medical Center  
JOANNE LI, PhD, CFA, Chancellor, University of Nebraska at Omaha  
ANNE C. BARNES, MBA, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
BREN CHAMBERS, JD, Interim Vice President and General Counsel  
TIFFANY HENG-MOSS, PhD, Interim Vice President and Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
BRET R. BLACKMAN, MA, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer  
CHRISTOPHER J. KRATOCHVIL, MD, Vice President for External Relations

### UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

H. DELE DAVIES, MD, MS, MHCM, Interim Chancellor  
ANNE C. BARNES, MBA, Vice Chancellor for Business, Finance and Business Development  
KENNETH W. BAYLES, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research  
ANN ANDERSON BERRY, MD, PhD, Executive Director Child Health Research Institute  
BRADLEY E. BRITIGAN, MD, Dean College of Medicine  
EMILY J. GLENN, MSLS, Dean, McGoogan Health Sciences Library  
ALI S. KHAN, MD, MPH, MBA, Dean, College of Public Health  
DONALD G. KLEPSE, PhD, MBA, Joseph D. Williams Endowed Dean, College of Pharmacy  
CHRISTOPHER J. KRATOCHVIL, MD, Vice Chancellor for External Relations  
GERARD KUGEL, DMD, MS, PhD, Dean, College of Dentistry  
JAMES LINDER, MD, CEO Nebraska Medicine  
KYLE P. MEYER, PhD, MS, PT, FASAHP, Dean, College of Allied Health Professions  
JANE L. MEZA, PhD, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
KAROLY MIRNICS, MD, PhD, Dean and Director, Munroe-Meyer Institute  
KAREN GOULD, PhD, Interim Dean, Graduate Studies  
LEPAINE SHARP-McHENRY, DNP, RN, FACDONA, Dean, College of Nursing  
JOANN SWEASY, PhD, Director Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

## ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The caps and gowns worn during formal academic occasions in American colleges today are the direct descendants of the everyday costumes worn in the universities of Medieval England. Each school had its own special attire so that an Oxford student could be distinguished from a Cambridge student, or a divinity student from a layman. Several costumes from European institutions are worn in today's ceremony by Medical Center faculty.

Because of the tremendous growth of American colleges and the confusion which would result if each were to adopt a distinctive costume, the Intercollegiate Bureau of Academic Costume was organized. The Bureau has established a uniform code which over 700 institutions have adopted. Harvard, practically alone, still clings to its own traditional costumes.

The **distinctions** of the Code are simple, there being three types of gowns and three types of hoods for bachelors, masters, and doctors, respectively. The bachelor's gown has a long pointed sleeve, whereas the master's gown has a long closed sleeve, square at the end with an arc of a circle above the bottom. The sleeve extends well below the knee, the arm coming through a slit near the elbow. The doctor's gown is characterized by a voluminous bell-shaped sleeve on which appear three velvet bars and by velvet facings or panels of the same color down the front. The navy blue gown trimmed with scarlet velvet, worn by some members of the faculty, indicates fellowship in the American College of Surgeons.

The hood is the most important and distinctive feature of the Code. The hoods for all degrees are lined with silk in the official academic color or colors of the institution conferring the degree and have an edging or trim of velvet, the color of which indicates the course or faculty to which the degree pertains. The lining is exposed when the hood is worn. The bachelor's hood is rather short with a narrow velvet edging. It is not worn by candidates for the baccalaureate but only by those upon whom this degree has been previously conferred. The master's hood is considerably longer, has a wider velvet edging, and exposes more of the lining. The doctor's hood is easily recognized since, of the three types of hoods, it has the widest velvet edging, greatest length, and fullest exposure of the lining, and has wide panels at the side.

The black mortarboard cap with tassel is worn with each type of gown. Those holding a doctor's degree are privileged to wear a gold tassel. Masters and bachelors wear black gowns and tassels that are either black or of the color appropriate to the degree in which they are being graduated. Marshals wear cardinal tassels. The members of the Board of Regents wear doctor's gowns.

Candidates receiving degrees with **distinction**, **high distinction** and **highest distinction** wear medallions with red ribbons, white ribbons and red and white ribbons respectively. Candidates receiving medallions have demonstrated, during the course of their study, superior academic aptitude.

Candidates receiving degrees with **Academic Excellence** are advanced placement students in the Colleges of Nursing and Dentistry who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement.

The colors, which may be observed at this commencement and which symbolize various courses or faculties, are as follows:

Dentistry .....	Lilac	Philosophy .....	Royal Blue
Medicine .....	Green	Physical Therapy .....	Teal
Allied Health Professions .....	Green	Nursing .....	Apricot
Public Health .....	Salmon	Pharmacy.....	Olive Green
Science .....	Golden Yellow		

**Thank  
You**

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Medical Center