

# 2025 SPRING COMMENCEMENT Saturday, May 17 | 10 a.m. | Scott Gymnasium

# President's Message





Dear Graduates, Families, and Friends,

It is with great pride and heartfelt congratulations that I welcome you to the 2025 Commencement Ceremony at Dickinson State University.

Today, we celebrate more than academic achievement—we celebrate perseverance, character, and the shared values that define our Blue Hawk community. As you walk across this stage, you carry forward a tradition that is over a century strong. At DSU, Blue Runs Deep—in our commitment to learning, in our pride for this institution, and in the lasting bonds forged here.

Our mission—to provide high-quality, accessible education that supports student success—has guided your journey. You've met challenges with resilience, sought out knowledge with curiosity, and grown into leaders

ready to serve your communities and professions. You've embodied the spirit of DSU in every way, and your accomplishments today are a testament to that mission in action.

As you leave these halls and step into the next chapter of your lives, remember that you carry the legacy of Dickinson State with you. Wherever you go, go with purpose. Go with courage. Go knowing that you are—and always will be—a part of the DSU family.

Congratulations, Class of 2025. We are proud of you.

Ty Orton, Acting President

To the Class of 2025,

It is a distinct honor to join you on this momentous day as the newest member of the Dickinson State University family. Though I am just beginning my journey here, I know as an alumnus that this place is special—not only for its academic excellence, but for the strength of its traditions, its mission, and its people.

As you cross this stage and close one chapter, you enter into a new one – as a proud graduate of DSU. The saying goes, "Once a Blue Hawk, always a Blue Hawk," and those words carry real meaning. They speak to a lifelong connection, to a community that lifts one another up, and to a deep-rooted pride that doesn't fade with time.



Dickinson State's mission to foster learning and leadership in an inclusive, supportive environment has helped shape the individuals you are today. You are stepping forward prepared—not only with knowledge—but with integrity, grit, and purpose. That is the DSU way.

While your time as a student ends today, your journey as a Blue Hawk is just beginning. I look forward to seeing the impact you will make in the world, and I hope to meet many of you again—whether back on campus or out leading in your fields.

Congratulations, graduates. The future is yours.

With great respect,

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Scott Molander '88, Incoming President





**TY ORTON** Acting President

# SCOTT MOLANDER

**Incoming President** 

#### HOLLY GRUHLKE

Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost

#### DANITA BYE

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

#### **KIERRA MATHERN**

Alumni Relations Director Interim Director of Strategic Initiatives and Events

#### LESLIE WIETSTOCK

Vice President for Finance and Administration

#### JOAN AUS Dean, School of Education

ANN WITTKOPP Dean, School of Professional Studies

### **ELIZABETH FREEDMAN FOWLER**

Interim Dean, School of Applied Sciences

#### AMY GRINSTEINNER

2025 Distinguished Educator of the Year

# GRIFFIN OBRIGEWITCH ROHNNIE NACOTA

Student Speakers

## DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY 2025 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

#### Saturday, May 17, 2025 | 10 a.m. | Scott Gymnasium | Dickinson, North Dakota

Silence your cell phones | Remain seated during the processional and recessional | Stand during the alma mater Air horns are not allowed during Commencement proceedings

PRELUDE	DSU Concert Band, Directed by Adam Mitchell
PROCESSIONAL	Pomp and Circumstance – Elgar/Shafer
COMMENCEMENT DECLARED OPEN	Debora Dragseth Senior Faculty Member Professor of Business Baker Boy Professor of Leadership
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Holly Gruhlke
RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING GRADUATES	Joan Aus Ann Wittkopp Elizabeth Freedman Fowler
OPENING REMARKS	Ty Orton
SPECIAL MUSIC	DSU Chorale Mackenzie Hicks, Conductor <i>You'll Never Walk Alone</i> arr. Mac Huff Accompanied by Mariah Wilz
GREETINGS FROM THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION	Danita Bye
INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKER	Amy Grinsteinner 2025 Distinguished Educator of the Year
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Griffin Obrigewitch Rohnnie Nacota
PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES	Holly Gruhlke
CONFIRMATION OF GRADUATES	Ty Orton
CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	Kierra Mathern
CLOSING REMARKS	Scott Molander
ALMA MATER	Led by Mackenzie Hicks
COMMENCEMENT DECLARED CLOSED	Debora Dragseth
RECESSIONAL	DSU Concert Band, Directed by Adam Mitchell

#### PLEASE JOIN US!

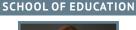
A reception will follow the commencement ceremony in Wienbergen Gymnasium.

# Academic Schools Outstanding Graduates

The Dickinson State University Outstanding Graduate Award is the highest honor bestowed on graduating seniors and master's degree recipients by the University. Students are nominated by the faculty in their academic school for exceptional performance in their field of study.

# **OUTSTANDING MASTER'S GRADUATES**

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP







Christina Jorgensen

# **OUTSTANDING GRADUATES**

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



X'Avier Vincent

SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCES



#### Griffin Obrigewitch



Brendon Rasmussen



Jacob Daniel

# SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



Madison Wahl



Lottie Caldwell

#### SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



Kaitlyn McColly



Carson Hunter



#### **CHRISTINA JORGENSEN**

A Dickinson native, Christina Jorgensen returns to her hometown roots with a wealth of leadership and service experience. She is graduating with a Master of Arts in Teaching, further deepening her commitment to education and community impact. Christina has worked extensively in the nonprofit sector, serving as Program Director of Badlands Ministries and Executive Director of the Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce. She currently serves as the Faith Formation Director at St. John Lutheran Church, where she continues her passion for mentoring youth and young adults. Christina's dedication to community service and education stands as a model for future leaders.

*"It is an unexpected honor to be nominated as an Outstanding Graduate.* 



I am grateful for the family and friends who have supported me along the way. To me, this award is not only a reflection of my goal to complete the program, but also a testament to the encouragement and love so many have offered me throughout my journey."





#### KAITLYN MCCOLLY

Kaitlyn McColly's DSU journey has been marked by excellence in academics, athletics, and service. Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA, Kaitlyn also excelled as a member of the Track and Field team, earning seven All-Academic awards, five All-American honors, and two National Championship titles. She represented the United States at the 2023 FISU World Games in Chengdu, China. After graduation, Kaitlyn will begin her nursing career as a pediatric nurse at Sanford Medical in Bismarck while continuing to exemplify leadership and dedication in her field.

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"Being an Outstanding Graduate Awardee means that I have been able to pursue and find success in chasing my dreams at Dickinson State University. I have found a supportive community that has helped me accomplish academic and athletic achievements I never thought possible. The friends and family I have found at Dickinson State University have continually provided resources, encouragement, and celebration. I am forever grateful to have found my place at Dickinson State and will always cherish the connections and memories made."







#### **GRIFFIN OBRIGEWITCH**

Hailing from Dickinson, North Dakota, Griffin Obrigewitch will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Leadership Studies. An accomplished athlete and student leader, Griffin earned multiple Academic All-American and Champion of Character honors as a cross-country and track athlete. Beyond sports, he served in key leadership roles including Student Ambassador, Student Senate member, and Student Assistant Director in the Theodore Roosevelt Honors Leadership Program. Griffin now sets his sights on a future career in dentistry, bringing with him a deep commitment to learning, leadership, and service.

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"I am incredibly grateful and honored to be recognized as an Outstanding Graduate Awardee. This award stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication I have invested during my time at Dickinson State University. However, it is truly the individuals around me, including faculty, friends, and coaches, who have provided the opportunities, guidance, and encouragement that allowed me to grow and succeed. I would not be where I am today without their unwavering support, and in many ways, this recognition belongs as much to them as it does to me."







## **ROHNNIE NACOTA**

Rohnnie Nacota, of Riverton, Wyoming, is the daughter of Bender and Maria Nacota. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration, with majors in Administration and Human Resource Management. During her time at DSU, Rohnnie was an active Student Ambassador and generously volunteered for a variety of campus events, including serving as an honor usher and guest services during the 2024 North Dakota State of the State Address. She also held a work-study position within the School of Business and Entrepreneurship, skillfully balancing her responsibilities alongside her academic commitments. After graduation, Rohnnie will begin her professional career in a full-time role with YES, LLC.



# **GRIFFIN OBRIGEWITCH**

Griffin Obrigewitch, of Dickinson, North Dakota, is the son of Scott and Naomi Obrigewitch. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, with minors in Chemistry and Leadership Studies. Griffin was deeply involved on campus, serving as a member of Student Ambassadors, Student Senate, and Blue Hawk Catholic, often in leadership roles. He also served as a Student Assistant Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Honors Leadership Program and represented DSU as the Student Impact Story Speaker. In addition, Griffin was a member of both the DSU Cross Country and Track & Field teams. He is graduating Summa Cum Laude and will attend the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in the fall.

# **Previous Student Speakers**



SPRING 2012 Leah Walters - Gladstone, ND

FALL 2012 Zachery Keller - Dickinson, ND

SPRING 2013 Pierce Brooks - North Hills, CA Jordan Mork - Dickinson, ND

FALL 2013 Sarah Poswilko - Killdeer, ND

SPRING 2014 Brenda Charles - St. John's, Antigua

FALL 2014 Sarah Jennings - Dickinson, ND Joshua Kralicek - Dickinson, ND

SPRING 2015 Mardee Clarke - Stockett, MT

FALL 2015 Damon Fichter - Dickinson, ND Michael Landblom - Dickinson, ND

SPRING 2016 Matthew Perdue - Ray, ND

FALL 2016 Jalyn McGill - Richardton, ND Mariam Shittu - Kaduna, Nigeria

SPRING 2017 Jessica Schmeichel - Apple Valley, MN Jalyn Klauzer - Baker, MT

FALL 2017 Braeton Erhardt - Hazen, ND

SPRING 2018 Carlie Bowditch - Sylvania, SK Mackenzie Hicks - Hettinger, ND FALL 2018 Seth Moerkerke - Gillette, WY

SPRING 2019 Allisha Dworshak - Dickinson, ND Salena Loveland - Worland, WY

FALL 2019 Rachael Solberg - Belfield, ND

SPRING 2020 Christopher Gartner - Sidney, MT Suzanna Moberg - Dickinson, ND

SPRING 2021 Aspen Lenning - Plaza, ND Abigail Moberg - Dickinson, ND

FALL 2021 Isaiah MacDonald - Mandan, ND Mariah McLaughlin - Beulah, ND

SPRING 2022 Anya Baranko - Richardton, ND Luisa Popp - Heidelberg, Germany

SPRING 2023 Kirstyn Bohn - Vermillion, SD Alexa Delbridge - Sturgis, SD

FALL 2023 Haylie Oberlander - Worden, MT

SPRING 2024 Rusty Dan - Coeur d'Alene, ID

FALL 2024 Melissa Moos - Dickinson, ND

# Honor Ushers

#### TR SCHOLARS:

Carl Askins – Sheridan, WY Madison Beckler – Bismarck, ND Kate Enney - Dickinson, ND Cheyenne Jacobs – McHenry, IL Lorelei Jarret – Springdale, MT Natalie Lile – Ballantine, MT Gracie Roller – Columbus, MT Caleb Sarsland – Bowman, ND **DSU STAFF:** Stacy Wilkinson





We honor the life and legacy of **Andrea Carver**, who is being awarded her Master of Business Administration degree posthumously. Andrea was a cherished member of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship, a dedicated North Dakota University System employee at our sister institution, Williston State College, a beloved wife and mother, and a dear friend to many. Her passion for learning, commitment to service, and impact on those around her will never be forgotten.

Latin Honors - gold cord DSU Outstanding Graduate - DSU medallion with gold ribbon Academic Schools Outstanding Graduate - DSU medallion with navy ribbon ^ TR Scholar Honor Societies: 🕏 Phi Alpha Theta 🛛 🌒 Sigma Beta Delta

Bismarck, ND

Steven Deutsch Christina Jorgensen Emma Nortje

#### Dickinson, ND Lebanon, KS

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Kavika Aholelei	Yorba Linda, CA
Caitlin Aston	Suisun City, CA
Kelly Bang	Killdeer ND

Ketty Dang	KILLUCCI, ND
Emily Beck	Fessenden, ND
Andrea Carver (Posthumous)	Williston, ND
Brenna Lordemann	Williston, ND
William Madler	Bismarck, ND
Gwen Minette Mosqueda	Illigan City, Phillipines
Frederik Nortje	Dundee, South Africa
William Rollins	Lakewood, CO
Cameron Sheppard	Litchfield Park, AZ
Taiwo Soetan	Dickinson, ND

#### MASTER OF EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

MASTER OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Kimberly Goodall

#### Hotchkiss, CO

#### Kelly Bang Emilv Beck Julie Kiser Gwen Minette Mosqueda Taiwo Soetan

Killdeer, ND Fessenden, ND Edmond, OK Illigan City, Phillipines Dickinson, ND

#### MASTER OF SPORT ADMINISTRATION Baker, MT

Bismarck, ND

Dalton Herbst Leyton Lang

Athletic Leadership Athletic Leadership Xavier Patterson Branden Schultz Scott Tischer St. Ansgar, IA Lake Crystal, MN Wahpeton, ND Athletic Leadership Athletic Leadership Athletic Leadership

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION - HONORS**

Anna Beer Summa Cum Laude	Lemmon, SD	Mathematics Education
Trevor Berry Cum Laude	Chadron, NE	Physical Education Health Education
Jacob Daniel^ Summa Cum Laude	Dickinson, ND	Physical Education Health Education
Corbin Harris Summa Cum Laude	Torrington, WY	Physical Education
Haydin Henschel <i>Cum Laude</i>	Helena, MT	Elementary Education
Amanda Housel <i>Cum Laude</i>	Manning, ND	Music Education
Carson Lunak Summa Cum Laude	Havre, MT	Physical Education Health Education
Calli Mack <i>Cum Laude</i>	Pettibone, ND	Elementary Education
Emma Miller Summa Cum Laude	Dickinson, ND	Elementary Education
Austin Olson Summa Cum Laude	Minot, ND	History Education
Hailey Pfaff <i>Cum Laude</i>	Tappen, ND	Elementary Education
Katrina Poss <i>Cum Laude</i>	Hettinger, ND	Elementary Education
Sara Smith <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bismarck, ND	Elementary Education
Lexie Tatum Magna Cum Laude	New Salem, ND	Music Education
Madison Wahl Cum Laude	Glendive, MT	Elementary Education

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION**

Samantha Burke Hailey Carns Rebecca Forthun Taylor Lee Nikkole Martin Alexandra McAuliffe Katie McDonald Alexandria Miller Mitchell Sayler Madison Schwindt Sylvia Sutton Reese Cut Bank, MT Watford City, ND Hettinger, ND Miles City, MT Bismarck, ND Miles City, MT Fort Saskatchewan, AB Canada New Salem, ND Dickinson, ND Bismarck, ND Elementary Education English Education English Education Elementary Education Elementary Education Elementary Education Composite Social Science Education Elementary Education Elementary Education Elementary Education

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Aubrey Varnum Josmar Zepeda Wibaux, MT Dickinson, ND Elementary Education Music Education

#### **BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - HONORS**

Noelle Arend	Dickinson, ND	Accounting
Cum Laude	Diennison, HD	/
Kelly Bang Magna Cum Laude	Killdeer, ND	Administration
Camryn Collins Magna Cum Laude	Baker, MT	Administration
Kale Corley <i>Cum Laude</i>	Newcastle, WY	Administration
Jason Dusseault Summa Cum Laude	Williston, ND	Administration
Grace Gundlach Magna Cum Laude	Miles City, MT	Accounting
Hannah Kisse Magna Cum Laude	Dodge, ND	Administration
Tayte Kohn Summa Cum Laude	Lemmon, SD	Administration
Drew Kovash Cum Laude	Dickinson, ND	Administration Finance
Josee Krum Cum Laude	Worden, MT	Accounting
Karter Kudrna <b>()</b> <i>Cum Laude</i>	Dickinson, ND	Accounting Administration
Kylie Larson <i>Cum Laude</i>	Williston, ND	Human Resource Management
Nicholas Maszk <i>Cum Laude</i>	Dickinson, ND	Administration
Lane Neill <i>Cum Laude</i>	Belgrade, MT	Administration
Jett Ogren Magna Cum Laude	Dickinson, ND	Administration
Jayda Piatz Cum Laude	Bismarck, ND	Accounting
Taysha Snyder Magna Cum Laude	Underwood, ND	Administration
Trey Stevens Cum Laude	Reno, NV	Administration
Brooks Talbot Cum Laude	Bozeman, MT	Administration
X'Avier Vincent Summa Cum Laude	Bismarck, ND	Administration
Asia Willer Bentz Cum Laude	Dickinson, ND	Accounting
Michael Wishowski Cum Laude	Fairplay, CO	Administration





#### **BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Samuel Adams Shantel Bertelsen Nathaniel Boehm Sarah Davis Savannah Duke Oriekose Egbule Bradyn Enderud Cameron Erickson Amber Estabrook John Evans

Jennifer Ferderer

Aidan Fishell Katherine Fox Jaxson Franklin Connor Hyslop Brooke Johnson

Christine Juma

Eric Kilen Rylie Koble

Colten Krank Ashley Leddon Chance Malmedal McKenzie Moser Rohnnie Nacota

Courtney Reule

Alexis Roller

Brian Schwab Kara Standing Rock Kayden Steele Aleigha Villars

Nathaniel Woodruff August Wright Jamine Wutzke

Buffalo, SD Wibaux, MT Bowman, ND Beach, ND Hensler, ND Houston, TX Dickinson, ND Centralia, WA Bismarck, ND Lethbridge, AB, Canada Bismarck, ND Scobey, MT White Shield, ND Sidney, MT Bismarck, ND Belle Fourche, SD Stanley, ND West Fargo, ND Minot, ND Taylor, ND Minot, ND Bismarck, ND Bismarck, ND Riverton, WY Dickinson, ND Bismarck, ND Wibaux, MT Billings, MT Newell, SD

Torrington, WY Sheridan, WY Bismarck, ND

Dickinson, ND

Administration Administration Administration Accounting Administration Administration Administration Administration Human Resource Management Administration Finance Administration Human Resource Management Finance Administration Finance Finance Administration Human Resource Management Administration Human Resource Management Finance Administration Human Resource Management Finance Accounting Accounting Administration Administration Human Resource Management Administration Accounting Finance Accounting Administration Finance Administration Administration Administration Administration Human Resource Management Administration Administration Administration





# **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE - HONORS**

	DACHELON OF SCIENCE II	
Jeran Anderson Magna Cum Laude	Scranton, ND	Exercise Science
Rose Anderson Cum Laude	Dickinson, ND	Psychology
Edward Aranda Calixto <i>Cum Laude</i>	Rosemead, CA	Psychology
Morgan Aune <i>Cum Laude</i>	Taylor, ND	Psychology
Blake Barner Summa Cum Laude	North Platte, NE	Exercise Science
Galen Brantley III^ Magna Cum Laude	Soldatna, AK	Biology Chemistry
Shelby Carr Cum Laude	Alliance, NE	Agricultural Studies
Karissa Comer Magna Cum Laude	Kalispell, MT	Exercise Science
Haileigh Davis Magna Cum Laude	Billings, MT	Exercise Science
Maegan Fox Magna Cum Laude	Farmington, NM	Psychology
Zoey Heid <i>Cum Laude</i>	Elgin, ND	Exercise Science
Carson Hunter <sup>^</sup> Magna Cum Laude	Miles City, MT	Exercise Science
Rachel Kelly Magna Cum Laude	Miles City, MT	Agricultural Studies
Kylee Kleppen Magna Cum Laude	Plentywood, MT	Exercise Science
Tayte Kohn Summa Cum Laude	Lemmon, SD	Exercise Science
Dalton Martin <i>Cum Laude</i>	Gillette, WY	Exercise Science
Griffin Obrigewitch <sup>*</sup> Summa Cum Laude	Dickinson, ND	Biology
Jewel Olson Summa Cum Laude	Wolf Point, MT	Biology
Asia Phillips Cum Laude	Selma, AL	Criminal Justice
Tinley Pierson Cum Laude	Kaycee, WY	Biology
Clay Prell Cum Laude	Miles City, MT	Biology
Brendon Rasmussen Magna Cum Laude	Bowman, ND	Agricultural Studies
Jazlyn Schmidt <i>Cum Laude</i>	Gillette, WY	Agricultural Studies
Charles Sim Cum Laude	Queens, NY	Computer Science
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# **Candidates for Degrees**

Chase Steiner *Cum Laude* Haven Taylor *Magna Cum Laude* Kaholo Toves *Magna Cum Laude* Nathan Unruh *Cum Laude* Jackson Willems^ *Magna Cum Laude* Alexia Wold *Magna Cum Laude*  Dickinson, ND Circle, MT Wolf Point, MT Dickinson, ND Billings, MT

Bayfield, CO

Watford City, ND

Computer Technology Management

Exercise Science

Exercise Science

Agricultural Studies

Criminal Justice

**Exercise Science** 

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Kyley Barnett **Darion Brown** Juan Camacho **Emmy Dockter Robert Flowers** Isaac Frimpong Jr. **Bailey Hansen Charley Heuchert** Loden Idler Jacob Jessen Laney Jones Dawson Kuylen Autumn Martin-Geerts Gracious Mataruse Tanatswa Mavhiza Clayton McAllister Zane McCormick Katarina Messmer Chase Miller Lea Mittleider Victoria Moreno Wentz Mosqueda Caleb Nielsen Jenna Novotny Shiloah Olson 🖲 Bradyn Palmer Ella Peterson Amy Voll

Lacey, WA Paso Robles, CA Menoken, ND Corvallis, MT Dickinson, ND Riverton, UT Dickinson, ND Hinsdale. MT Grass Range, MT Miles City, MT Dickinson, ND Mott. ND Gweru, Zimbabwe Harare, Zimbabwe Swanton, VT Helena, MT Mott, ND Torrington, WY Carrington, ND Dickinson, ND Iligan City, Philippines Dickinson, ND Dickinson, ND Watford City, ND Alliance, NE Rapid City, SD Warroad, MN

Exercise Science **Exercise Science** Criminal Justice Psychology **Environmental Science** Computer Technology Management Exercise Science Agricultural Studies Agricultural Studies Agricultural Studies Agricultural Studies Biology Psychology **Computer Science Computer Science** Agricultural Studies Environmental Science Psychology Psychology Agricultural Studies Agricultural Studies Computer Technology Management Computer Technology Management Biology **Composite Social Science** Psychology Psychology Psychology

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING - HONORS**

Dakota Auck Magna Cum Laude Stanford, MT

Nursing

# Candidates for Degrees

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	Cununuures	Jui Degrees
Jaylen Baxter	Sidney, MT	Nursing
Cum Laude Kaitlyn McColly	Hinsdale, MT	Nursing
Summa Cum Laude		
Sydney Mosset Cum Laude	Hazen, ND	Nursing
Brianna Price <i>Cum Laude</i>	Forsyth, MT	Nursing
Jadyn Steiner <i>Cum Laude</i>	Dickinson, ND	Nursing
	BACHELOR OF SCI	IENCE IN NURSING
Alyssa Kessel	Dickinson, ND	Nursing
		-
		ARTS - HONORS
Lottie Caldwell Magna Cum Laude	Warwick, ND	English
Rebecca Davis Magna Cum Laude	Casper, WY	English
Lauden Gums Cum Laude	Bismarck, ND	History
	BACHELO	R OF ARTS
Olivia Burk	Wibaux, MT	Political Science
Autumn Martin-Geerts	Mott, ND	Theatre
Clayton Schutt	Dickinson, ND	Communication
Michael Yeaman	Douglas, WY	Political Science
Tierney Zachmann	Miles City, MT	English
I	BACHELOR OF UNIVERS	SITY STUDIES - HONORS
Alyssa Severson Magna Cum Laude	Roseau, MN	
	BACHELOR OF UN	IVERSITY STUDIES
Moses Dokes	Denver, CO	
Alexis Lefor	Dickinson, ND	
Chris Murphy	Chicago, IL	
Margaret Remerowski	Brookings, SD	
Trenton Richter	Scottsbluff, NE	
Hannah Selensky	Center, ND	
Chad Troftgruben	Tacoma, WA	
	BACHELOR OF APPLIE	ED SCIENCE - HONORS
Heather Huber Cum Laude	Center, ND	Business
Tycie Phalen Cum Laude	Miles City, MT	Business





#### BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Alison Eldridge Hayden Lockie Melissa Thomas

#### Billings, MT Circle, MT Bismarck, ND

Business Business Business

#### ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE - GPA DISTINCTION

McKensey Echeverria Leah Nauman Samuel Stillings Lauren Taylor Skiatook, OK Dickinson, ND Dickinson, ND Laurel, MT Practical Nursing Practical Nursing Practical Nursing Practical Nursing

#### ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

Taylor Bohlen	Rapid City, SD	Practical Nursing
Kendra Cummings	Whitewater, MT	Accounting
Christopher Denten	Liberal, KS	Practical Nursing
Alicia Engstrom	Mandan, ND	Practical Nursing
J'Ell Garfield	Wolf Point, MT	Practical Nursing
McKenzie Haven	Dickinson, ND	Practical Nursing
Madison Hughes	Dickinson, ND	Practical Nursing
Peyton Janeway	Baker, MT	Practical Nursing
Mikayla Jardine	Seattle, WA	Practical Nursing
Rose Kuntz	Richardton, ND	Practical Nursing
Jazmin Ladwig	Van Tassell, WY	Practical Nursing
Parker Lund	Wibaux, MT	Practical Nursing
Laura Maala	Bismarck, ND	Practical Nursing
Chelsea Pacheco	Oviedo, FL	Practical Nursing
Ashley Pinto Melendez	Dickinson, ND	Practical Nursing
McKenzie Smith	Dickinson, ND	Practical Nursing
Seth Suvak	Dickinson, ND	Fire Science
Makaela Unterseher	Hazen, ND	Practical Nursing
	ASSOCIATE IN ARTS - G	PADISTINCTION
Baylee Davidson	Froid, MT	
JoAnna Fleckenstein	Bismarck, ND	
Jessica Gubler	Livingston, MT	
	ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE -	GPA DISTINCTION

Braedyn Hoffman Caden Houle Eniola Soetan

Dickinson, ND Trenton, ND Dickinson, ND

#### ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

Sydney Ellingson Jacob Frank Elly LeBlanc Brielle Partridge Prairie City, SD Nampa, ID Florian, LA Glasgow, MT Agricultural Sales and Service

Agricultural Sales and Service



Gainesboro, TN

New Salem, ND

Rachel Tyre Ty Wolding Agricultu Agricultu

Agricultural Sales and Service Agricultural Sales and Service

CERTIFICATE		
Kelly Bang	Killdeer, ND	Accounting Technician
Shantel Bertelsen	Wibaux, MT	Banking
Ethan Bess	Tucson, AZ	Welding Technology
Camryn Collins	Baker, MT	Accounting Technician
		Business Fundamentals
		Human Resource Management
Riley Davis	Baker, MT	Welding Technology
Alison Eldridge	Billings, MT	Accounting Technician
Bradyn Enderud	Dickinson, ND	Digital Marketing
Ethan Frye	Ekalaka, MT	Welding Technology
Rogelio Gonzalez	Tucson, AZ	Welding Technology
Sarah Griffis	Anaconda, MT	Digital Communication
Quinn Griffith	Baker, MT	Welding Technology
McKenzie Haven	Dickinson, ND	Allied Health
Heather Huber	Center, ND	Business Fundamentals
Cy Hughson	Provo, SD	Welding Technology
Hannah Kisse	Dodge, ND	Accounting Technician
		Digital Marketing
Josee Krum	Worden, MT	Accounting Technician
Karter Kudrna	Dickinson, ND	Accounting Technician
Brody Landrum	Miles City, MT	Welding Technology
Carlos Molina, Jr.	Tucson, AZ	Accounting Technician
		Banking
Lane Neill	Belgrade, MT	Business Fundamentals
Ty Nelson	Dickinson, ND	Welding Technology
Margaret Remerowski	Brookings, SD	Digital Marketing
Kaster Robbins	Dickinson, ND	Welding Technology
Clayton Schutt	Dickinson, ND	Digital Communication
Kara Standing Rock	Billings, MT	Banking
Phynix Stark	Dickinson, ND	Accounting Technician
Emma Stillings	Dickinson, ND	Digital Marketing
Brooks Talbot	Bozeman, MT	Accounting Technician
Asia Willer Bentz	Dickinson, ND	Accounting Technician
		Banking
		Business Fundamentals
	T :	Human Resource Management
Nathaniel Woodruff	Torrington, WY	Accounting Technician

#### THIS PROGRAM IS NOT AN OFFICIAL GRADUATION LIST

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy in this commencement program, printing deadlines may result in omission of some names and use of names of persons not completing graduation requirements as intended. This printed program, therefore, should not be used to determine a student's academic or degree status. The University's official registry for conferral of degrees is the student's permanent academic record kept by the Office of Academic Records at Dickinson State University.





# 2025 Distinguished Educator of the Year **AMY GRINSTEINNER**

2025 Innovative Teacher of the Year **SARAH CROSSINGHAM** 

2025 Professional Contributions Award COLLETTE CHRISTOFFERS

2025 Professional Contributions Award CAREY HAUGEN

2025 Excellence in Teaching Award COLIN STRINE

2025 Excellence in Teaching Award TIM DANIEL

2025 Adjunct Faculty Recognition Award ROBERT HOFFMAN

2025 Physical Plant Staff Service Award ALAN KLATT

2025 Professional Staff Service Award KRISSY KILWEIN

2025 Professional Staff Service Award MACKENZIE HICKS

2025 Administrative Staff Service Award RATNA FLEIG





We honor the life and legacy of professor Michael Jennings.

Professor Jennings joined our faculty in 2023 as an assistant professor, bringing his wealth of knowledge and passion to the criminal justice and sociology courses he facilitated. Before joining us, he taught criminal justice at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith and served nearly two decades as a juvenile probation officer. During his career, he worked tirelessly on criminal cases and status offenses, specializing in youth gangs. In 2010, his efforts were recognized

when he earned the Program of the Year award from the Arkansas Juvenile Justice Coalition for developing a martial arts diversion curriculum for at-risk teens.

A dedicated professional, Michael was a former member of the Texas Gang Investigators Association and the Arkansas Juvenile Officers Association and a present member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. His academic interests, including tribal justice, criminal justice ethics, constitutional law, and community corrections, enriched his teaching and inspired his students.

Originally from Washington and a proud U.S. Navy veteran, Michael made Dickinson his home, where he lived with his wife of 20 years and their two dogs. Outside of his professional pursuits, he found joy in fishing, hunting, cooking, and watching movies.

As we mourn the loss of Professor Jennings, we also honor his legacy as an educator, mentor, and colleague. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

The following is a listing of Dickinson State University faculty and staff, organized in chronological order based on the year of employment with full-time faculty listed first, followed by staff members who hold a baccalaureate degree.

#### FACULTY

Debora Dragseth	Professor of Business Baker Boy Professor of Leadership
Tim Daniel	Assistant Professor of Kinesiology
Tobias Stroh	Assistant Professor of Agriculture
David Meier	Professor of History
Thadd O'Donnell	Assistant Professor of Kinesiology
	Head Coach, Golf
Lori Hauf	Associate Professor of Business
Woodrow (Chip) Poland Jr.	Director of Agriculture and Technical Studies Professor of Agriculture
Shawna Egli	Instructor of Mathematics and Computer Science
Lisa Corbin	Assistant Professor of Accounting
Wendy Wilson	Professor of Psychology
Holly Gruhlke	Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost Professor of Business
Amy Kass	Assistant Professor of Accounting
Timothy Kessel	Assistant Professor of Finance and Business
Jundong Chen	Associate Professor of Computer Science
Darla Hoffmann	Assistant Professor of Education
Shayne Wittkopp	Director of Cross Country and Track and Field Instructor of Kinesiology
Deborah Secord	Professor of Education

Jerolyn Braunagel	Instructor of Education
George Seror III	Associate Professor of Psychology
Ann Wittkopp	Dean, School of Professional Studies Assistant Professor of Kinesiology
Hildee Fike	Instructor of Mathematics
Joan Aus	Dean, School of Education
	Professor of Education
	Director of Graduate Studies
Michael Dahl	Instructor of Kinesiology Head Coach, Baseball
Elizabeth Freedman Fowler	Interim Dean, School of Applied Sciences Assistant Professor of Biological and Earth Sciences
Jason Abate	Assistant Professor of Business
Amy Grinsteinner	Assistant Professor of Education
Niles Haich	Assistant Professor of English
Colin Strine	Associate Professor of Biology
Michael Cullinane	Professor of History
	Lowman Walton Endowed Chair of Theodore Roosevelt Studies
	Co-Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Center
Sarah Crossingham	Assistant Professor of Education
	Advisor of Blue Hawk Theater Guild
Hyunjoo Hill	Assistant Professor Business
Jeff Wells	Professor of History Dennis and Vaune Johnson Endowed Chair in U.S. History
Samanthika Hettiarachchi	Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Physics
Taiwo Soetan	Associate Professor of Business
Jinasena Hewage	Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Danielle Harper	Assistant Professor of Agriculture
Sarah Manka	Assistant Professor of Biology
Stephanie Osborne	Assistant Professor of Business
Kimberly Goodall	Instructor of English Education
TJ Dempsey	Assistant Professor of Psychology
Trevor Hann	Assistant Professor of Biology
Eric Nelson	Instructor of Kinesiology
	Head Coach, Women's Basketball
Collette Christoffers	Co-Administrator, Nursing Associate Professor of Nursing
Carey Haugen	Co-Administrator, Nursing Assistant Professor of Nursing
Ayodeji Arogundade	Dean, School of Business & Entrepreneurship Associate Professor of Business
Laura Leiss	Assistant Professor of Elementary/SPED Education
Adam Mitchell	Assistant Professor of Music
	Band Director
Tracie O'Donnell	Instructor of Nursing
Christopher Olson	Assistant Professor of Communication
Michelle Orton	Director, Theodore Honors Leadership Program
	Assistant Professor of Leadership

Assistant Professor of English

Instructor of English

Instructor of Nursing

Director of Nursing

Forrest Roth Paul Benkendorfer Stephane Gerving Melilssa Wagner

#### STAFF

Todd Hauf Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services Carrie Knudson Coordinator, Student Health Services Trent Myran **Director, Facility Operations** Stacy Wilkinson Chief of Staff to the Vice President **Timothy Kreidt** Athletic Trainer Kim Thiel Assistant Director, Information Technology Services Kathleen Meyer Director, Academic Records Johnna Douthit Assistant Director, Academic Records Vidya (Sagar) Kondru Network and Database Manager Gayle Mork Assistant Director, Financial Aid Christopher Meek Director, Financial Aid Krissv Kilwein Director, Human Resources Nicole Kadrmas Bismarck Site Coordinator and Advisor Collaborative Coordinator Joshua Nichols Interim Director, University Relations Creative Services Specialist Esports Coordinator Head Coach, Softball Kristen Fleury Associate Athletic Director Ty Orton Acting President Executive Director, DSU Heritage Foundation Elena Stickel University Brand Manager Sandra Steckler School of Education Coordinator Graduate Studies Student Support lason Watson **Biesiot Activity Center Coordinator** Edward Striefel **Emergency Management Coordinator** Kayla Noah Dean of Students Technology Education Coordinator Laura Fetting Samantha Wohletz Director, SOAR Center Dale Dolechek Custodian John Stanton Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Head Coach. Football Justin Schlecht Head Coach, Men's Wrestling Taylor Thiel Information Systems Specialist Ruizhe Jiang Data Analyst Kathleen Geisen **Director, Special Projects** Title IX Coordinator West River Teachers Center Coordinator Heat Plant Operator Alan Gatheridge Jason Their Assistant Coach, Football Assistant Coordinator, Henry Biesiot Activity Center



Sheri Landenberger Russell McCarvel

Erik Johnson Marlo Sexton Derek Selvig Sagan Osborne Kyle Smith Laurie Karie Tyson Springer Samantha Cheshier Mackenzie Hicks Russell Kiser Ashley Tillman William Hansard Kierra Mathern

Tanner Gust Gwen Mosqueda Melissa Wells Leslie Wietstock Gemma Koontz Paul Amberg, Jr. Sarah Griffis Payson Dirk Cebe Schneider Stormy Siemion Emma Nortje Ratna Fleig Hunter Flynn Bryant Merry Gabrielle Knopik Marissa Schroeder Hayden Wempen James Dusharm KayLee Kopp Tobin O'Brien Jacob Owsley Hannah Dunham Andee Lane Teresa Sigler Alexandra Hecht Makayla Grijalva Trov Huber Mark Martinez Rachel Hornbarger Verification Specialist Assistant Athletic Director Assistant Coach, Football Co-Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Center Remote Course and Service Desk Coordinator Head Coach, Men's Basketball Sports and Marketing Information Director Development Officer - Athletics and Rodeo Director, Counseling & Health Services Head Coach, Women's Wrestling Online Learning Technician Director, Campus Life Director, International Programs Student Success Advisor Outreach Coordinator and Digital Collection Specialist Alumni Relations Director Interim Director of Strategic Initiatives and Events Assistant Coach, Track and Field Transfer Evaluation Specialist Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Finance and Administration Vice President for Finance and Administration **Digital Collection Specialist - Cataloging** Director, Stoxen Library Library Services Technician Housing Operations Coordinator Head Coach, Cheerleading Head Coach, Volleyball Student Success Advisor Office Assistant, Academic Records Assistant Director of Admissions Athletic Groundskeeper Coordinator, School of Business and Entrepreneurship Student Success Advisor Admissions Counselor Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball Assistant Coach, Volleyball Assistant Coach, Football Assistant Coach, Men's Basketball Communications and Social Media Specialist Student Success Advisor Coordinator, School of Professional Studies **Digital Collection Specialist - Cataloging** Admissions Counselor Controller Accessibility Services and Tutoring Center Coordinator Accounts Payable Technician



Academic regalia generally consist of cap, gown, and hood worn on formal occasions at institutions of higher learning. It originated in the medieval period when the vast majority of scholars were of the clergy.

The gown evolved from what most likely was the cape of the clergy. The gown was originally black, but color was introduced as institutions left ecclesiastical control. The hood originated as the skull cap worn by the clergy to protect their heads from the elements.

The hood served a three-fold purpose: head covering, shoulder cap, and bag for alms. King's College, now known as Columbia University, was established in 1754 and imported many British regulations for academic dress.

The end of the 19th century found widespread use of academic dress in the United States. It is estimated that 95 percent of the colleges and universities abide by the intercollegiate code which oversees academic dress.

#### STYLES AND COLORS

The bachelor's gown is worn closed and is distinguished by its pointed sleeves. A master's gown is designed to be worn closed with long, crescent shaped sleeves. The doctoral gown may be worn open or closed with velvet panels down the front and three bars on the round, bell-shaped sleeves. The color of the velvet may be distinctive of the field of study to which the degrees pertain. The Dark Blue of the Doctor of Philosophy degree is predominant but other representative degree colors are distinguished in the following manner:

Arts, Letters, Humanities – WhiteBusiness – DrabEconomics – CopperEducation – Light BlueFine Arts – BrownLaw – PurpleLibrary Science – LemonMusic – PinkNursing – ApricotPhysical Education – Sage GreenPublic Administration – Peacock BlueScience – Golden YellowSocial Work – CitronTheology – ScarletScience – Golden Yellow

The most distinguishing feature of the academic attire is the hood. The size and shape of the hood designates not only the college degree of the wearer but also the university he or she attended. The master's hood is three and one-half feet in length, while the doctoral hood is rounded and measures four feet in length. Hoods are lined with the official colors of the institution conferring the degree. The binding around the hood is velvet with the color indicative of the major field of study.

Caps are normally black with the most common the four-point mortarboard. Tassels are worn over the left front quarter after a degree has been conferred. Students graduating with honors from Dickinson State University are distinguished with gold honor cords. Only students earning bachelor degrees may receive honor status.

# The Mace

In medieval times, the mace was often carried by kings or their sergeant-at-arms into battle where it was used as a weapon to protect the king. Centuries later, as armor became stronger, the use of the mace was phased out as a weapon. It was used, instead, during ceremonial occasions to denote authority in governmental, legislative, church, and academic settings. Universities have also used the mace to denote authority, and it is carried in front of the academic procession during each commencement ceremony.

The Dickinson State University mace is carried by Dr. Debora Dragseth, Professor of Business and Baker Boy Professor of Leadership for the School of Business and Entrepreneurship. Dr. Dragseth began her long and distinguished teaching career at DSU in 1989. Dr. Dragseth earned the honor of carrying the mace by virtue of being the senior member of Dickinson State University faculty.

# Photos

Individual photos of graduates will be available for purchase courtesy of The Grad Team. Ordering information will be mailed out by The Grad Team within the next few weeks.

Additional commencement photos will be available for free download at <u>flickr.com/dickinsonstateuniversity</u>. Photos will be labeled under the name "2025 Spring Commencement." If you are having technical difficulties, please email <u>dsu.communications@dickinsonstate.edu</u>, someone will assist you.

> Share your pics on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram! @dickinsonstate #HawksAreUp #DickinsonState #ForeverABlueHawk



Cane of Leadership



The Cane of Leadership was started back in 2001 by the DSU Alumni Association as a historical time piece to list the accomplishments of each academic year with a new ribbon. Prior to 2001, the graduating classes had a new metal ring indicating that year added to a cane. The cane is filled with rings from every year dating back to 1926.

HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN Paul Hanebutt III – New Salem, ND | Whitney Edwards – Rapid City, SD

> OUTSTANDING MASTER'S GRADUATE Christina Jorgensen – Dickinson, ND

**OUTSTANDING GRADUATES** Kaitlyn McColly – Hinsdale, MT | Griffin Obrigewitch – Dickinson, ND

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS Rohnnie Nacota – Riverton, WY | Griffin Obrigewitch – Dickinson, ND

SCOTT MOLANDER SELECTED AS DSU'S 14TH PRESIDENT

DSU HERITAGE FOUNDATION PROVIDES \$1.65 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO DSU STUDENTS, SURPASSES \$60 MILLION IN DONATIONS

BLUE HAWK THEATRE GUILD INAUGURAL YEAR

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD HOSTS OVER 200 AREA STUDENTS (19 TEAMS FROM 9 SCHOOLS)

TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS RECEIVE PERFECT RATING ON CAEP ACCREDITATION VISIT

DSU ENROLLMENT CENSUS FOR FALL 2024 AND SPRING 2025 MATCH (1,410 STUDENTS)

UNDER DIRECTION OF PROFESSOR (ADAM) MICHAEL JENNINGS, CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS REENACT INFAMOUS SWANSON MOTEL MURDERS TRIAL

BLUE HAWK ATHLETICS Kaitlyn McColly receives 2023-24 A.O. Duer Award at NAIA National Convention

DSU Cheer wins 3rd at NAIA Nationals (highest finish in program history) Tia Madrigga First Team All-American Xeia Schneider First Team All-American Teandra Schneider Second Team All-American Gustav Kitzan Third Team All-American

DSU Football hosts and wins (over Kansas Wesleyan) first playoff game at the BAC (first playoff at DSU in two decades)

Football wins tenth consecutive North Star Athletic Association conference title

DSU Men's Basketball wins NSAA Title and advances to the national playoffs (first time since 2017) Kose Egbule Third Team All-American Derek Selvig named NSAA Men's Basketball Coach of the Year

**Women's Indoor Track wins seventh consecutive NSAA Conference Championship** Shayne Wittkopp named NSAA Indoor Track and Field Women's Coach of the Year (seventh consecutive)

Jumoke Adekoye wins NAIA Women's Wrestling national title in 131-pound category and receives Most Outstanding Wrestler Award (first national title in program history)

DSU Rodeo - Jory Boote Competes at 2024 College National Finals



In honor of the rich diversity at Dickinson State University, commencement includes the Display of Nations. The national flag of each student graduating is displayed in a salute to the students who have come together to enrich the university.

#### COUNTRIES



United States





Zimbabwe





**TRIBAL NATIONS** 



Blackfeet



Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes



Shoshone and Shoshoni-Bannock



Three Affiliated Tribes



Cherokee



Oglala Sioux



Spirit Lake Chippewa



Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

Hail to thee! Our Alma Mater, Of the Blue and Gray;

Fair to us above all others Is thy name today!

Blue and Gray! Flag we love! Float and wave alway For DSU.

May thine own fore'er be loyal To thy memory.

> Lyrics by Mary Jane Alguire Middleton, B.A. '42 Arranged by O.T. Belsheim; Revised in 1987

