



SPRING COMMENCEMENT

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

MAY 10, 2025

Chicoine Center

The image shows three tall silver flagpoles standing on a brick base. The central pole has the United States flag flying. The pole to the right has a red flag with a white horse head. The pole to the left has a blue flag. The background consists of green trees and a clear blue sky.

The Pledge of Allegiance

*I pledge allegiance
to the flag
of the United States
of America,
and to the republic
for which it stands,
one nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all.*

Chadron State College Spring Commencement

Saturday, May 10, 2025 | 10 a.m. | Chicoine Center

*Pomp and Circumstance.....	Edward Elgar <i>Arr. By James Ploybar</i> <i>Performed by the Chadron State College Wind Symphony</i> <i>Directed by Dr. John Wojcik, Professor of Music</i>
*Posting of Colors	Dawes County Veterans Honor Guard
*Star Spangled Banner	Francis Scott Key <i>Arr. By Sidney Shuler</i> <i>Performed by the CSC Wind Symphony</i>
*Pledge of Allegiance	Frances Bellamy
Opening Remarks	Dr. Ron K. Patterson <i>President of Chadron State College</i>
Moment of Reflection	Ms. Ella Louise O'Brien <i>Bachelor of Arts Degree Candidate</i>
Welcome	Dr. Ron K. Patterson Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly <i>Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
Greetings	Dr. Paul Turman <i>Chancellor, Nebraska State College System</i>
Introduction of Speaker	Dr. Ron K. Patterson
Message to the Graduating Class	Dr. Charles L. Welch <i>President and CEO, American Association of State Colleges and Universities</i>
Presentation of Graduate Class of 2025	Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly
Conferral of Masters' Degrees.....	Dr. Ron K. Patterson
Hooding.....	Graduate Faculty Advisors Assisted by: Dr. James Margetts, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts Dr. Brittany Helmbrecht, Interim Dean of the School of Professional Studies and Applied Sciences Dr. Joyce Hardy, Interim Dean of the School of Business, Mathematics, and Science
Recognition of Honor Graduates	Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly
Presentation of the Undergraduate Class of 2025	Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly
Conferral of Bachelors' Degrees	Dr. Ron K. Patterson
Closing Remarks	Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly 
Moment of Reflection	Ms. Kylie Kempf <i>Master of Education Degree Recipient</i>
*Fanfare and Recessional	Michael Stephens <i>Performed by the CSC Wind Symphony</i>

*Please stand
Flowers donated in part by Bloom of Chadron.

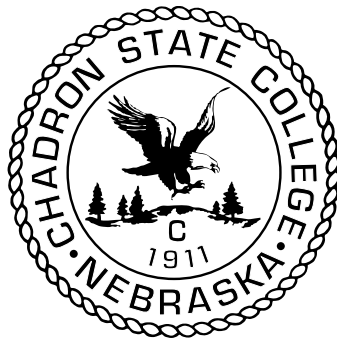
Academic Regalia

The history of academic dress goes back to the early days of the oldest universities. In England, in the second half of the 14th Century, statutes of certain colleges prohibited “excess in apparel” and prescribed the wearing of a long gown. Originally gowns may have been worn for warmth in the unheated buildings frequented by medieval scholars.

The gown is usually of black material. Bachelors’ gowns have long pointed sleeves; Masters’ gowns have full-length square sleeves, crescent-shaped at the bottom; and the Doctors’ gowns have full, round, open sleeves. The Doctors’ gown is closed and faced with panels of velvet down the front. Three velvet bars decorate each sleeve.

The cap, generally the square mortar-board, but sometimes for Doctors, a round, soft, flat velvet hat (a style borrowed from foreign universities), bears a tassel which may be black for all ranks and degrees, or may be of gold thread for Doctors and the color of the degree for Bachelors and Masters. Only the Doctors’ cap may be of velvet.

The hood is the principal indicator of the nature and source of the degree. Bachelors’ hoods are three feet long with two-inch wide velvet side-panels; Masters’, three-and-one-half with three-inch panels, and Doctors’, four feet with five-inch panels. The silk lining bears the colors of the institution that conferred the degree and the color of the velvet panels indicates the field of study. Hoods may be worn only after the degree has been granted.



Commencement Speaker



Dr. Charles L. Welch became the seventh president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) on January 15, 2024. Dr. Welch joined AASCU after serving nearly 13 years as president of the Arkansas State University System, where he led the state's second largest higher education system. He is also past president of Henderson State University (AR).

Dr. Welch is past president of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges and served as chairman of the board of the Arkansas Association of Public Universities. He is vice chair of the American Academic Leadership Institute Board of Directors and serves on the Board of Directors of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. He also served on the Board of Directors for Goodwill Industries of Arkansas, is a former board member for the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches and was inducted into the Arkansas Boys State Hall of Fame.

He was co-chair of the Executive Council of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. He previously served as chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana, vice chancellor for academic affairs at Arkansas State University-Beebe, and dean of university studies at the University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College. Welch also worked at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and has served as an instructor of education and political science at three different colleges in Arkansas.

Dr. Welch has deep ties to AASCU, having led two AASCU member institutions, and served as chair of the AASCU Board of Directors twice from 2019-2021. He co-chaired AASCU's Presidential Postsecondary Value Commission Task Force. He was also actively engaged with AASCU's New Presidents Academy and Emerging Leaders Program, serving as executive sponsor for both initiatives.

Dr. Welch is a first-generation college student and the first member of his extended family to receive an advanced degree. He received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Arkansas, a Master of Arts in political management from The George Washington University (DC), and a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Dr. Welch was awarded President Emeritus status by the Arkansas State University System in December 2023. The system also honored Dr. Welch with the creation of the Charles L. Welch Presidential Scholars Program.

Candidates for Graduate Degrees

Master of Arts in Education

Nicole C. Biles Lincoln, Nebraska
Ian Russell Bish..... Valentine, Nebraska
Miriah Rae Boner..... Douglas, Wyoming
Jennifer D. Cattnach..... Chadron, Nebraska
Amanda Diedrich Mitchell, Nebraska
Kodiak Franklin French Clarkson, Nebraska
Courtney Freng Fort Pierre, South Dakota
Nichole Marie Hahn Pierre, South Dakota
Mikaela Ann Heiser..... Lynch, Nebraska
Sara Marie Hicks Alliance, Nebraska
Kristina Hobbs Ewing, Nebraska
Alyssa Christine Johnson Wisner, Nebraska
Sally Jo Laret..... Palmer, Alaska
Alex M. Marker..... Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Jay Andrew Mills Ephrata, Washington
Savannah MohrhausBlanchester, Ohio
Janel Arlene MooreCasper, Wyoming
Erin Lynn Mueller Valentine, Nebraska
Melanie Nelsen Emerson, Nebraska
Megan Elizabeth O'Leary Timber Lake, South Dakota
Laura Kathleen Otter Lincoln, Illinois
Fouad Oulcaid Phoenix, Arizona
Ellen Chase Piekarski Eagle River, Alaska
Jill Aileen Scanlon..... Wahoo, Nebraska
Jordon E. Swesey..... Grant, Nebraska
Ryan Matthew Waters..... Lincoln, Nebraska
Nyla Annette Witzel Brainard, Nebraska
Michael A. Woodraska..... Valentine, Nebraska

Jenny Motacek..... Springfield, South Dakota
Yusef Lawrence Nelson Auburn, Washington
Jessica Lynn Rusconi Flagstaff, Arizona
Joseph Michael Shanle Trenton, Nebraska

Master of Education

Diane Kay Baluska..... Chappell, Nebraska
Janet M. Blackwelder..... Casper, Wyoming
Matthew Elton Carlson Douglas, Wyoming
Alejandro Ivan Garcia..... Pine Bluffs, Wyoming
Kylie Ann Kempf Carroll, Nebraska
Lisa Sue Paez Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Derek Lane Siedschlag Norfolk, Nebraska
Brittney Stenger North Platte, Nebraska
Whitney Tewahade..... Chadron, Nebraska

Master of Science in Organizational Management

Colton J. Brienza Buffalo, South Dakota
James Paul Davis..... West Carrollton, Ohio
Samuel Louis de Seriere Westminster, Colorado
Dalton M. Holst Gillette, Wyoming
Braden Ross Mechem Torrington, Wyoming
Alison Ann Smith..... Omaha, Nebraska
Dillon Scott Woods..... Rapid City, South Dakota
Jahani Wright..... Miami Gardens, Florida

Master of Business Administration

Meron Mekete Achahmanew Falls Church, Virginia
Reda Badrioui..... Agadir, Morocco
Alexis Shayenne Beckius..... North Platte, Nebraska
Kate Benjamin Lakeside, Nebraska
Taylor Brown..... Barrow, Alaska
Tyra Carlsten Handberg..... Stockholm, Sweden
Jessica J. Daigle Piedmont, South Dakota
Johanna Elizabeth Dasteel Durango, Colorado
Torry Early Bensenville, Illinois
Milagrosa Bindang Esono Alo Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
Danielle Nicole Gibson Merna, Nebraska
Parker Gonser..... Windsor, Colorado
Tia Jerabek St. Paul, Nebraska
Gage David Kehn..... Bennington, Nebraska
Ethan Patrick Leake Knoxville, Tennessee
Audrey M. Lubken..... Gillette, Wyoming



Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Applied Science

Michael J. Malena Tucson, Arizona

Bachelor of Arts

Akene Agee Rochester, New York

Rylan Aguallo Mitchell, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Marisela Maria Aguilar Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Lucas Riley Ambrose Chadron, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Aidan D. Anderson-McClintock Elsie, Nebraska

Daniel D. Applegarth Chadron, Nebraska

Sandra Jolea Marie Arlt Scottsbluff, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Izzy Maria Ashley Rapid City, South Dakota

Trey Eric Ballard Dallas, Texas

Megan E. Baloun Rapid City, South Dakota
magna cum laude

Kristian Bartlett Chadron, Nebraska

Rachel Lynn Bell Miles City, Montana
summa cum laude

Emily M. Beye Chadron, Nebraska

Patrick Murphy Blake Kearney, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Brayton Branic (posthumous) Chadron, Nebraska

Taylor Christine Burch Gillette, Wyoming

Jaclyn M. Burks Kimball, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Gwendolyn Renee Buss Sterling, Colorado
cum laude

Kayla N. Campos Alliance, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Tyler Jacob Carpenter Thornton, Colorado

Makena Jean Chambers Mitchell, Nebraska

Alyssa Rayne Charging Thunder Gordon, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Jake LeRoy Chasek Mitchell, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Katrina Elaine Christensen Guernsey, Wyoming
summa cum laude

Mallory Jo Christiansen Lisco, Nebraska

Samantha Leigh Comes Camp Crook, South Dakota
magna cum laude

Mariah Cotant Gordon, Nebraska

Megan Grace Counts Green River, Wyoming
magna cum laude

Tessa Lyn Coyle Kalispell, Montana

Trystan Kenneth Davies Grand Island, Nebraska

Aaron James Dockery Hickman, Nebraska

Claudia Nicole Dolliger Bourbonnais, Illinois
Abigayle MacKenzie Donner Merriman, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Jaden Rocky Earle Gillette, Wyoming
magna cum laude

Paige Nicole Edwards Firestone, Colorado

McKenna Ann Elliott Valentine, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Trenton D. Elliott Merino, Colorado

Jolie Michelle Evans Wheatland, Wyoming
summa cum laude

John Figus Oak Lawn, Illinois
summa cum laude

Mackenzie Kay Gable Gering, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Halee Nicolle Garner El Reno, Oklahoma
summa cum laude

Kenzi Maline Garner Broomfield, Colorado
summa cum laude

Henry Joseph Gengler Lincoln, Nebraska

James Lee Gibson Merna, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Quintin J. Gilg Custer, South Dakota
cum laude

Nathan Cade Gillming Elm Creek, Nebraska
cum laude

Damienne Gronemeyer La Junta, Colorado

Samuel J. Guilez Colorado Springs, Colorado
cum laude

Sawyer J. Haag Chadron, Nebraska
cum laude

Reidun Marie Hammer Dubois, Wyoming

Ezra Ryan Harlow Lovell, Wyoming
cum laude

Tori Elizabeth Haug Chadron, Nebraska

Alondra Hernandez Provo, Utah

Robert John Herrera Lancaster, California

Megan Leah Hodgson McCook, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Lauren Hoelscher Pierce, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Karstin A. Hollen Mesa, Arizona
magna cum laude

Hannah Lanae Hoos Rushville, Nebraska

Hanna Huffman Burwell, Nebraska

Jessica A. Hughes Alcester, South Dakota
summa cum laude

Sydney R. Hunter Gillette, Wyoming
cum laude

Briton Mark Hyer Kansas City, Missouri
summa cum laude

Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees

Deonte Lavon Jackson	Southeast San Diego, California	Sasha Danielle Paez	Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Isabella Marjorie Jaramillo	Scottsbluff, Nebraska	Logan Parde	Ceresco, Nebraska
John Stevenson Jenkins Jr.	Las Vegas, Nevada	<i>summa cum laude</i>	
Ashlyn Jo Jensen	Burwell, Nebraska	Kyndal Paterakis	Alliance, Nebraska
<i>magna cum laude</i>		Vivian Fay Pease	Potter, Nebraska
Aarikah D. Johnson	Rexburg, Idaho	<i>cum laude</i>	
<i>summa cum laude</i>		Dalton Alan Peterson	Encampment, Wyoming
Joseph B. Johnson	Hay Springs, Nebraska	<i>summa cum laude</i>	
River John Juarez	Broomfield, Colorado	Julio Cesar Phipps	New York City, New York
Cathlyn Knutson	Red Shirt, South Dakota	Grant Joshua Pickrel	Fullerton, Nebraska
<i>magna cum laude</i>		<i>magna cum laude</i>	
Dana Lynn Koch	Cozad, Nebraska	Ashayla Lorielle Powers	Longmont, Colorado
Kylie R. Krise	Briggsdale, Colorado	Elle Grace Ravenscroft	Nenzel, Nebraska
<i>magna cum laude</i>		<i>summa cum laude</i>	
Tzu-Yang Lin	Bayard, Nebraska	India J. Rittgarn	Gordon, Nebraska
<i>summa cum laude</i>		<i>summa cum laude</i>	
Liberty J. Line	Parker, Colorado	Morgan Scott Roper	Milliken, Colorado
<i>cum laude</i>		Katelyn Kay Rosdahl	Rapid City, South Dakota
Adyson Etta Linse	Springview, Nebraska	Eben Michael Rosentrater	Paxton, Nebraska
<i>magna cum laude</i>		<i>summa cum laude</i>	
Britley M. Lopez	Borger, Texas	Jordan Michelle Rudd	Platteville, Colorado
<i>cum laude</i>		Rebecca A. Rudge	Rapid City, South Dakota
Toni Marie Lopez	Limon, Colorado	Conner Glen Schwend	St. Xavier, Montana
Krista LaRoy Malli	Arvada, Wyoming	Matthew Seckman	Powell, Wyoming
J'lyssa Precious Martinez	Arvada, Colorado	Meagan Marie Shuey	Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Reese Marie Maxon	Rapid City, South Dakota	D'Anthony Charles Smith	Casper, Wyoming
<i>magna cum laude</i>		<i>cum laude</i>	
Summer D. Mayhew	Valentine, Nebraska	Kolby Reed Smith	Hammond, Louisiana
Alexis Breann McGowan	Hemingford, Nebraska	Jaymi Stacy	Hutchinson, Kansas
Kyle Daniel McIntosh	Spring Hill, Florida	<i>cum laude</i>	
Spenser Cristine McMillan	Crawford, Nebraska	Hannah Salome Sterns	Delta, Colorado
Paige Noelle McSherry	Rapid City, South Dakota	Lauren Geselle Sylvestre	Dubois, Wyoming
Brittny Marie Merritt	Cheyenne, Wyoming	Jacky L. Terrazas	Ansley, Nebraska
Ashley Bridget Miller	Lynn, Massachusetts	Shayna Michelle Thomas	Yoder, Wyoming
Samantha Milne	Hay Springs, Nebraska	Tommy T. Thomas	Fort Collins, Colorado
Jersie Misegadis	Sidney, Nebraska	Devyn A. Thornton	Greeley, Colorado
<i>magna cum laude</i>		<i>magna cum laude</i>	
Kyla Bree Mitsos	Rapid City, South Dakota	Trista Leigh Topil	Lincoln, Nebraska
Ruhama Zewdu Molla	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	<i>cum laude</i>	
<i>summa cum laude</i>		Arthur Tanner True	Eaton, Colorado
Kamila Montenegro	Las Vegas, Nevada	Joyce Tsuguma	Kashiba, Japan
Raquel Elizabeth Moore	Beatrice, Nebraska	<i>summa cum laude</i>	
Shantae Priscilla Morgan	Westmoreland, Jamaica	Sadie Maria Faith Vander Wey	Valentine, Nebraska
Vincent Charles Mosley	Fort Collins, Colorado	<i>summa cum laude</i>	
Jacob E Nasalroad	Aurora, Colorado	Cole Walther	North Platte, Nebraska
Ashley Noel Neville	Philip, South Dakota	Rio Watanabe	Tokyo, Japan
Ella Louise O'Brien	Chadron, Nebraska	<i>summa cum laude</i>	
<i>summa cum laude</i>		Thomas Watson	Harrison, Nebraska
Grady Andrew Olson	Box Elder, South Dakota	<i>magna cum laude</i>	
Seth William Orsborn	Mountlake Terrace, Washington	Rylan Bradley Wehr	Douglas, Wyoming
		<i>summa cum laude</i>	

Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees

Abigail Grace Welch Arvada, Colorado
summa cum laude

Jackson James White Golden, Colorado

Kaci Ann Wickersham Verdigre, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Elizabeth Williams Dix, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Melaina Grace Williams Palmer, Alaska
summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Cobie Mathew Bila Chadron, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Crimsen Dawn Blankenship Rangely, Colorado

Paige Pauline Boitz Pueblo West, Colorado

Katelyn Marie Christian Chadron, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Kadyn Midori Comer Hill City, South Dakota

Chance Ian Cooper Bridgeport, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Echo Dawn Ecoffey Wounded Knee, South Dakota

Morgan Kate Ekwall Yoder, Wyoming

Maddison Ann Frohling Rapid City, South Dakota

Aiyana Marie Hepuahiwhiwao'kalani Fujiyama. Wahiawa, Hawaii

Keegan Anthony Gehlhausen Pinedale, Wyoming

Kaylea Renee Geiser Syracuse, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Hunter Thomas Gilmore Arlington, Nebraska

Addyson Mae Gipfert Peetz, Colorado

Morgan Karlyn Halquist Henderson, Minnesota
summa cum laude

Natalie Reece Hamaker Kearney, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Xavier Chauncey Harrell Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Colton M. Holoubeck Kearney, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Elijah R. Huntington Rapid City, South Dakota

Morgan Marie Jagers Sidney, Nebraska

Ashley Jansen Box Elder, South Dakota

Christopher James Jennings O'Neill, Nebraska
magna cum laude

David Michael Johnson Chadron, Nebraska

Alexis Nicole Kramer Saint Paul, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Valentino Leone Fowler, Colorado
cum laude

Jackson Fred Leuenberger Cook, Nebraska

Jacoby Skyler Long Omaha, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Aspen Lynn Lund West Point, Nebraska

Cody Franklin Miller Valentine, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Meggan Mitchell Vandalia, Illinois
magna cum laude

Kendall Nicole Petty Loveland, Colorado

Aubree R Quast Clarks, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Colton Tod Rosane Martin, South Dakota
magna cum laude

Bailey M Scherbarth Hay Springs, Nebraska

Jocelyn Manette Schiaffo Hay Springs, Nebraska
cum laude

Dean T. Schroder Taylor, Nebraska

David Gene Severson Box Elder, South Dakota

Autumn Ann Skow Midland, South Dakota
cum laude

Jaiden Arin Steiner Morrill, Nebraska
cum laude

Kyra Keiko Kanoe Lee Tanabe Honolulu, Hawaii
cum laude

Sharmila Uppalapati Joliet, Illinois
summa cum laude

Thomas Ryan Walsh Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Hunter Rose Wiebelhaus Springview, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Kenneth Timothy Wyland Hemingford, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science in Education

Sergio Saul Alarcon Imperial, Nebraska

Chase Robert Anderson Littleton, Colorado

Sydney Mae Biesecker Kimball, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Riley Kate Billings Sheridan, Wyoming
summa cum laude

Rachael Nicole Blue Bridgeport, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Marissa Mae Borchard Sidney, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Kendra Dawn Cardwell Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Hallie Cochran Gering, Nebraska

Gage Michael Correa Torrington, Wyoming

Audrey Olivia Daberkow West Point, Nebraska

Johanna Jean Foster Gothenburg, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Olivia Rae Freeze Bridgeport, Nebraska
cum laude

Josephine Morgan Fritz Spearfish, South Dakota

Brant John Fullmer Torrington, Wyoming

Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees

Denise Marye Grant Lingle, Wyoming
magna cum laude

Kalen MaryJay Gydesen..... Harrison, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Breckyn Lynn Hamlin..... Gillette, Wyoming
summa cum laude

Faith Elizabeth Hanson Omaha, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Alexandra Nichole Harris Scottsbluff, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Hannah Hinojosa..... Dinosaur, Colorado
cum laude

Katherine Leslee Hoeke..... Rapid City, South Dakota
summa cum laude

Jorden Hollenbeck Ainsworth, Nebraska
cum laude

Kyler Victoria Horn Brady, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Seterra R. Hoskinson Glenrock, Wyoming
cum laude

Myles Jensen Marshfield, Wisconsin
summa cum laude

Emma Lori Johnson Rapid City, South Dakota
summa cum laude

Jessica Kathleen Johnson..... Alliance, Nebraska

Kendyl Kirkwood..... Fleming, Colorado
summa cum laude

Courtney A Lauer Hyannis, Nebraska

Gregory J. Logsdon Torrington, Wyoming

Kali Rae Lucier Burlington, North Dakota
cum laude

Aimee Dawn Lunkwitz Ogallala, Nebraska

Jennifer McNeel..... Midwest City, Oklahoma

Dahna Joyce Miller..... Oshkosh, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Heather Nicole Milstead Palmer, Alaska
cum laude

Kayley Munoz..... Newcastle, Wyoming

cum laude

Mykinzee Musfelt Mitchell, Nebraska

Rashell S. Neefe.....Hemingford, Nebraska

Kaylin M. Neumann Sidney, Nebraska

Scott O'Dell..... Gillette, Wyoming
cum laude

Kyla Jo Odermann..... Torrington, Wyoming
magna cum laude

Karley B. Patterson Bertrand, Nebraska

Treyton Pearson Douglas, Wyoming
cum laude

Alexis Peepgrass Littleton, Colorado
summa cum laude

Kodi Rae Pharris.....Faith, South Dakota

Sarah L. Post..... Bridgeport, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Danae Rader..... Hansen, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Kali Janette Ritterbush Castle Rock, Colorado

Chelsea Marie Smith Gering, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Tyler S. Smith Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Sammi Jo Stout Kadoka, South Dakota

Ethan Wayne Strey Scottsbluff, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Taryn Danae Strong O'Neill, Nebraska

Jacob Grant Trauernicht Mitchell, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Katelyn Nicole Varner Alliance, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Kyla Brooke Walker..... Gering, Nebraska

Taira Maddison Weber..... Wiley, Colorado

Andrew Jay Wendland..... Crawford, Nebraska

Samantha Wrick Aurora, Nebraska
cum laude

Kortni K. Zeiler..... Mitchell, Nebraska



This Program is Not an Official Graduation List

This printed program lists students who held the status of degree candidates during the Spring term and may, pending the outcome of final examinations and final grades, become graduates. Therefore, it should not be used to determine a student's final academic (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude) or degree status. The College's official registry for conferral of degrees is the student's permanent academic record kept by the Records Office, Crites Hall, Chadron, NE 69337.

Degrees with Honors

Degrees with honors are conferred in accordance with the following index numbers which represent the scholastic ratio for all Chadron State College course work (based on a 4.0 scale). Graduation with academic honors requires the completion of at least 45 hours from Chadron State College by the end of the first 8-week session of the spring 2024 semester. Graduate students and students receiving a second Bachelor's degree are not eligible for honors.

Cum Laude 3.60-3.74

Magna Cum Laude 3.75-3.89

Summa Cum Laude 3.90-4.00

(The medallion worn around the neck of the candidates denotes Degrees with Honors)

Congratulations, Graduate!



We're proud of your achievement and welcome you to the Chadron State Alumni Association. The Alumni Association and office is your lifelong connection to CSC.

Be sure to join ConnectCSC, Chadron State's exclusive platform to keep you connected to campus and fellow CSC Alumni as you advance your career and personal life. With ConnectCSC, you'll have access to mentors, exclusive job offers, career advice, and networking – all provided by other CSC alumni.

You can join ConnectCSC at csc.edu/connect. For information about alumni events, reunions and campus news about your alma mater, visit csc.edu/alumni.



“Heart and Soul,” an outdoor sculpture by Karen Yank of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was dedicated in October 2019 at the Chicoine Center Plaza. The 12-foot high, 14-foot wide sculpture weighs about 2,000 pounds. It is made of steel, stainless steel, and a metal with a high copper content. Yank said she uses sandblasting and acid to accelerate the rusting process and its associated colors.

Chadron State College's Ceremonial Mace

The Chadron State College Ceremonial Mace celebrates the institution's authority to confer degrees and symbolizes its academic independence. The Ceremonial Mace also represents the status of the college's president; as such, it is only present at commencements and other events organized and attended by the President.

The design of the Chadron State College Ceremonial Mace blends Eurasian and Native American traditions. The mace head and three-foot shaft are an ornamental version of an ancient Eurasian weapon. In a practice that dates back at least to the Copper Age, the mace bearer holds a position of influence and respect. Use of maces in academic proceedings in Europe began in the 15th century, and many American institutions have adopted the tradition to acknowledge the continuity of educational structures. These enduring values are represented by two Chadron State College official seals on the mace head.

As we stand today on Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho homelands, the Chadron State College Ceremonial Mace also honors their traditions. The engraved feathers on the mace handle pay homage to the ceremonial Eagle Staff. Also a revered symbol of authority, the Eagle Staff represents strength, honor, unity, and heritage. The Medicine Wheel medallions on the mace head are part of a 5,000-year-old tradition shared by many Indigenous nations. In the modern academy, the Medicine Wheel encourages teaching about biological and human interconnections. The engraved words on the rand beneath the mace head read, "We are all related" in English and "Mitákuye Oyás'ij" in Lakota — they remind us to attend to these values.

The Eagle on top of the mace is an important symbol in many cultures. Everyone involved with Chadron State College thinks of themselves as an Eagle. The Eagle is the college's mascot and we collectively admire the bird's noble spirit. Similarly, in Native American culture, the Eagle represents strength and bravery; its feathers are a sign of sacredness.

The Chadron State College Ceremonial Mace was imagined by President Ron K. Patterson, designed by committee; drawn by Professor Mary Donahue; constructed by master builder Tom Boley of Wamego, Kansas; and created with the assistance and advice of Professor Kurt E. Kinbacher, Brian Swallow, Julie Hasz, and Lisa Cook. The mace stand was built locally by Jerry Moss and Steve Hutchens.



Chadron State College's Presidential Medallion

A presidential medallion is an ancient symbol of authority; the chain of office is worn by the head of the college which signifies the institution's charter to confer degrees and honors.

Chadron State College commissioned the creation of a presidential medallion in 2023 as a symbol of the President's Office. The medallion itself bears the seal of the institution, and the links adjoining the chain are engraved individually with the names of the 12 presidents of Chadron State College, dating back to the institution's founding in 1911. The presidential medallion is worn on academic and ceremonial occasions by those who serve Chadron State College as president and will be passed on to each new president to symbolize the transfer of office.

To date, Chadron State College has been served by 12 presidents. Their names and terms of office are listed below.



Joseph Sparks, 1911-1916
Robert Elliott, 1916-1940
Wiley Brooks, 1941-1954
Barton Kline, 1954-1961
F. Clark Elkins, 1961-1967
Larry Tangeman, 1973-1975

Edwin Nelson, 1967-1973 and 1975-1986
Samuel Rankin Jr., 1986-1998
Thomas Krepel, 1998-2005
Janie Park, 2005-2012
Randy Rhine, 2012-2023
Ron K. Patterson, 2023-