



DOANE UNIVERSITY
Winter Commencement 2025



College of Arts and Sciences
College of Business
College of Education

WINTER COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
DECEMBER 12, 2025 • 2 P.M.



Doctorate of Education
Education Specialist
Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction
Master of Education in School Counseling
Master of Arts in Counseling
Master of Arts in Leadership
Master of Business Administration
Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology
Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Processional*	Doane University Concert Band, <i>Andrew D. Feyes, Ph.D., Director of Instrumental Music</i>
<i>The Star Spangled Banner</i> *	Doane University Concert Band
Welcome	Susan E. Larkin, Ph.D., <i>Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
Opening Reflection	Catherine M. Archie, M.A.M. '14; Ed. D. '25
President's Welcome	Roger A. Hughes, Ph.D., '82, <i>President, Doane University</i>
Commencement Address: " <i>The Next Five Years</i> "	Douglas D. Christensen <i>Director of Education Specialist Program (Ret.), Doane University</i>
Conferral of Graduate Degrees	Roger A. Hughes, Susan E. Larkin, Denise C. Ellis, M.S., <i>Registrar</i>

DOCTORATE OF EDUCATION

Catherine L. Sommervold, Ed.D., *Director, Doctorate of Education Program*
Timothy J. Frey, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Education*

EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Melissa J. Poloncic, Ed.D., *Adjunct Professor*, Mitch R. Kubicek, Ed.D., *Adjunct Professor*

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Carrie L. Rath, Ed.D., *Associate Professor of Practice*
Debra S. Stuto, M.Ed., *Director, Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction Program*

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

Felicia A. Nofuente, M.S., *Assistant Professor of Practice*
Rachel T. Catlett, M.S., *Director, Master of Education in School Counseling Program*

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Arden A. Szepe, Ph.D., *Associate Professor, Master of Arts in Counseling Program*
Andrea M. McGrath, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor, Master of Arts in Counseling Program*

MASTER OF ARTS IN LEADERSHIP, *and* MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Jared S. Cook, Ed.D., *Chair, Business Department*, Daniel S. Bothe, DBA, *Dean, College of Business*

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Terri A. Deems, Ph.D., *Chair, Leadership Department*, Daniel S. Bothe, DBA, *Dean, College of Business*

Presidential Address Roger A. Hughes

Conferral of Baccalaureate Degrees Roger A. Hughes, Susan E. Larkin and Denise C. Ellis

*The Doane Hymn**.....

Bryan R. Alvarado, *soloist*
Doane University Concert Band

A hymn of praise we lift to Thee, O God, whom we re-vere. For
5 build on Christ" this mot-to blest, En-graved on Mer-rill's stone, is
Doane, Thy ho-ly gift to us our Al-ma Ma-ter dear. Her walls are fitt-ing
10 writ - ten, too, in ev-ery heart that loy-al beats for Doane. Keep our soul vis-ion,
mon - u-ments to those who reared them there. And strong lives nur-tured
then, O Christ, For aye un-dimmed and free, that we may ho - nor
14 in her halls be - speak their an - swered prayer. "We Thee.
God and Doane by build - ing still on _____

Closing Reflection.....

Brian M. Evans, M.Ed. '25

Recessional*.....

Doane University Concert Band

* PLEASE STAND

The Doane Hymn is a commencement ceremony tradition. Written by Lucy Fiske Medlar, a congregational school teacher and wife of Doane graduate Arthur Medlar (1906), the lyrics express her reflections following a visit to the campus. A 1921 Doane Owl article echoes a line of the hymn, "Her walls are fitting monuments of those that reared them there," recognizing that "those of the past have certainly left their imprint." May our graduates today feel the imprint they leave behind, as they go forth from these walls and grounds.

❁ DOUGLAS D. CHRISTENSEN ❁

Director of Education Specialist Program (Ret.), Doane University

Dr. Douglas D. Christensen served as a Professor of Practice in Educational Leadership at Doane University for 13 years, officially retiring in 2022 as the Director of Education Specialist Program. During his time at Doane, he created and implemented a leadership development program for the preparation and certification of leaders at the district levels of school systems, primarily superintendents of schools. Prior to this, he served 14 years as the Commissioner of Education (Nebraska) after joining the Department of Education as an Associate and then Deputy Commissioner.

Before being appointed Commissioner of Education by the State Board of Education, Dr. Christensen served in roles as superintendent of schools in three districts in addition to roles as principal, teacher and coach. Dr. Christensen was recognized for his leadership as Superintendent of the Year (Kansas), Superintendent of the Year (Nebraska), and Public Official of the Year (Governing Magazine). In addition, he received awards from the Nebraska State Teachers Association, National Education Association, Nebraska Council of School Administrators, National Council of Teachers of English, Coalition of Essential Schools, and the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.



Dr. Christensen remains active, serving his 12th year on the Board of Directors of Phi Delta Kappa, including serving as President, Chair of the Board of Directors, and Chair of the Board of Governors of the Foundation. He is also serving his 12th year on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and is currently serving as President of the Board.

Dr. Christensen has been a servant leader in education for 57 years. His education leadership and career has spanned seven decades.

DOCTORATE OF EDUCATION

* Catherine Marie Archie • Omaha, NE

Dissertation:

When the Odds Have Been Defeated:
Examining Influential Experiences
of Unhoused Youth in Alternative
Education Programs

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Thomas Kolbe

Sarah Knuth Baker • Lincoln, NE

Dissertation:

Exploring Music Educator Perceptions
of Cycles of Enactment Centered on
Core Teaching Practices: A Case Study
of an Induction Program

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Debra Miller

Carol Ann Flora • Lincoln, NE

Dissertation:

A Case Study of One Midwestern
School District's Interlocal Cooperative
Agreement and Impacts on After-
School Programming within a
High School Setting

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Stephen Joel

Jason Todd Harris • Omaha, NE

Dissertation:

Young Adults with Disabilities and
Preparation for Post-Graduation
Success: A Qualitative Case Study

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Timothy Frey

Kiley M. Luchsinger • Gretna, NE

Dissertation:

Acting through Conflict: Exploring
the Role of Forum Theatre in New
Teachers' Identity Formation in a
Suburban Nebraska School District

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Erin Hussey

* Jason Lee Mundorf • Kearney, NE

Dissertation:

Battles in the Board Room: A
Qualitative Study on the Perceived
Impact of Politics for a Midwestern
State's School Board Members

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Julie Kozisek

James Thomas Widdifield • Minden, NE

Dissertation:

Legislating Education: Understand
How Nebraska Superintendents
Perceive the Effect of New State-
Legislated Requirements on
School Districts

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Catherine Sommervold

education specialist DEGREE

Andrew Tyler Adams • Hastings, NE

Ryan John Broshar • Omaha, NE

Teresa Lynn Casart • Louisville, NE

Anthony William Clark-Kaczmarek • Omaha, NE

Zachery James Deleski-Taylor • Omaha, NE

Lyndsey J. Douglas • North Platte, NE

Scott Michael Hilger • Omaha, NE

Caitlin Fae Jensen • Grand Island, NE

Dylan Kolter Kendall • Beatrice, NE

Michael R. Sortino • Bennington, NE

Joseph Tierney Wanning • South Sioux City, NE

master of education IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Erica Marie Acamo • Papillion, NE

Joseph Michael Ambs • Westminster, MD

Sarah Arehart • Hastings, NE

Abigail Beach • Gretna, NE

Grace Blum • Bennington, NE

Angela Marie Bousquet • Papillion, NE

Julie Brandt • Bellevue, NE

Brian R. Briggs • Omaha, NE

Joslyn Rae Brosius • Hershey, NE

Kathryn Brunke • Lincoln, NE

MaShayla Emily Burnett • Oconto, NE

Allysa Mae Catt • Panama, NE

Raymond Jay Cronk III • Thedford, NE

Cathleen Louise Danner • Lincoln, NE

* Veteran/Active Military

master of education IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION (CONT.)

Thomas Henry Dux • Fairbury, NE
Carson Rae Ebeling • Diller, NE
Alyssa Emery • Lincoln, NE
Brian M. Evans • Stromsburg, NE
Meghan Fisher • Pleasanton, NE
Sarah Marie Granger • Juniata, NE
Scott Hakel • Lincoln, NE
Ryan Michael Jansen • Omaha, NE
Noelle Elizabeth Kleint • Elkhorn, NE
Jennifer Knudsen • Omaha, NE
Brittany Nicole Kraft • Council Bluffs, IA

Adam Kranz • Beatrice, NE
Britnee Lynae Miller • Olathe, KS
Chantelle Lynn Milleson • Dunning, NE
Karlie Rae Muff • Lincoln, NE
Jacqueline Ortega Garcia • Grand Island, NE
Purity Anyango Ortiz • Lincoln, NE
Matthew Thomas Palu • Lincoln, NE
Jessica L. Parde • Crete, NE
Creighton William Pearse • Kearney, NE
Henry Penner • Lincoln, NE
Charles Wesley Pratt • Lincoln, NE

Chloe E. Reinwald • Lincoln, NE
Kirstine Rios • Beatrice, NE
Beatriz Cruz Rivas • Duarte, CA
Breanna Zae Rose • Gibbon, NE
Kennedy Simpson • Lincoln, NE
Paris TeBrink • Denton, NE
Elizabeth Thiele • Omaha, NE
Alyssa Tonniges • Omaha, NE
Megan E. Valgora • Kearney, NE
Amanda Weihl • Omaha, NE

master of education IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

Dawn Michelle Bodyfield • Elkhorn, NE
Emily Christine Bortol • Omaha, NE

Jens Nelson Lehman • Lincoln, NE
Grace Adair Rath • Omaha, NE

master of arts IN COUNSELING

Patrick Maurice Grayson • Stafford, VA
Madison Hostetler • Lincoln, NE
Chelsea Brooke Koehn • Lincoln, NE
Rachael Marilyn Kohrell • Lincoln, NE

Gwendolyn Lopez • Lincoln, NE
Heather L. McNally • Crete, NE
Brandon C. McWilliams • Lincoln, NE
Laura Jeanine Moravec • David City, NE

Ryan Thomas Rabstejnek • Beatrice, NE
Elianet Tamayo Pioto • Lincoln, NE

master of arts IN LEADERSHIP

Lameakia Michelle Collier • Lincoln, NE
Thais Cristina Gimenez Vieira • Lincoln, NE
Melissa Kay Gross • Papillion, NE

James Knyawhtoo • Lincoln, NE
Sharla Dirkedil Mad • Lincoln, NE
★ Kamil Hamzah Rasool • Lincoln, NE

Hiba Shaheen • Lincoln, NE
Bo Vanis • La Vista, NE
Melissa Ann Wortmann • Columbus, NE

master of business administration

Hiam Al Naqqash • Lincoln, NE
Kimberly Sue Barrett • Lincoln, NE
Aleena Sibte Burney • Leesburg, VA

★ Brandon Gross • Andersonville, GA
Jaden Marie Hilkemann • Lincoln, NE
Luke Douglas LaChance • Littleton, CO

Jared Alexander Smith • San Antonio, TX
Tyrina Sheree Webster • Lincoln, NE
Tristan Anthony Zamilpa • Madera, CA

master of science IN INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Kristina Rivera • Omaha, NE

KayLee D. Schwarz • Cozad, NE

★ Veteran/Active Military

bachelor of ARTS & bachelor of SCIENCE

Jeremiah Johnson Arndt • Dannebrog, NE
Bachelor of Arts in Accounting

Sebastian Bejarano Bensus • Cali, Colombia
Bachelor of Science in Engineering

Luke Alan Bonifas • Hastings, NE
Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Elijah A. Calloway • San Antonio, TX
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science

Kelsey Marie Dramse • Grand Island, NE
Bachelor of Arts in Human Relations

Vincent Eurek • Loup City, NE
Bachelor of Arts in Agribusiness

Nicole M. Goddard • Lincoln, NE
*Bachelor of Arts in Professional Studies
in Business Administration*

Zinedine Guecioueur • Thionville, France
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration

Philip Paul Guthrie • Tuscaloosa, AL
*Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources
and Environmental Science*

Ashton Paul Jochum • Sutherland, NE
Bachelor of Science in Engineering

Rowan Joy Jolkowski • Omaha, NE
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Devin Klein • Roca, NE
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts Studies

Marisa Yvette Marquez • Upland, CA
Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts Studies

Carlos C. Napoles • Lincoln, NE
Bachelor of Science in Computing

Gerald Brandon Nix • Ripon, CA
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science

Aaron Mathew Reyes • San Benito, TX
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts Studies

Abigail Anne Rickert • Lincoln, NE
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts Studies

Nelson Cheruiyot Ruto • Eldoret, Kenya
Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Agdaly Guadalupe Sanchez Castro • Norfolk, NE
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

♦ Riley Brianne Schmidt • Crete, NE
Bachelor of Science in Biology

Grayce Sheridan Southern • Tulsa, OK
Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

♦ Tyler Stevens • Northglenn, CO
Bachelor of Science in Engineering

Ryan Richard Stratman • Lawton, IA
Bachelor of Arts in History

Kidyn Milton Timms • Colorado Springs, CO
Bachelor of Arts in History

Brianna Jo Vesely • Wilber, NE
Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Devin Eric Wanamaker • Fairbury, NE
Bachelor of Science in Engineering

Waite Adam Wilmore • Centennial, CO
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science

Jason Wilson • Victor, ID
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science

♦ Reece Mathew Zutavern • Dunning, NE
Bachelor of Arts in Agribusiness

The Mace

Representing the authority bestowed upon the president by the Board of Trustees, the mace features a bronze of the university seal atop a four-foot sculpted piece of walnut. The mace is carried by Mark M. Meysenburg, Ph.D., Professor of Computing, and signifies the official opening and closing of the ceremony.



Marshals

Marshals lead the processional and recession, and direct the logistics of the ceremony.

Faculty marshals are Timothy G. Hill, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, and Bradley A. Johnson, M.T.S., Ph.D, Professor of English.

Junior marshals are members of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honor society, and include:

Britta J. Deden, Ord, NE; Laura E. Hasemann, Wayne, NE;
Ella R. Ningen, Chappell, NE; Lilith L. Umberger, Randolph, NE.



Photographs and Videotaping

As a Winter Commencement graduate or guest, you consent to your voice, name and/or likeness being used, without compensation, by the Doane University Office of Strategic Marketing in any and all media to promote the university, whether now known or hereafter devised, and you release Doane University from liability of any nature whatsoever.

Photography will be provided by Doane's Office of Strategic Marketing and images may be downloaded free of charge. A gallery link will be emailed to each graduate's Doane email address.

Honor Cords

Medallions are worn by students graduating from the Honors Program, orange cords are worn by students graduating with honors, and National Honor Society memberships are signified by colored honor cords:

Alpha Kappa DeltaTeal <i>Sociology</i>
Alpha Lambda DeltaWhite, gold, and red <i>Academic</i>
Alpha Psi OmegaMidnight blue and amber <i>Theatre</i>
Beta Beta BetaRed and green <i>Biology</i>
Cardinal KeyCrimson and gold <i>Service</i>
Delta Mu DeltaPurple and gold <i>Accounting/business</i>
Delta Phi AlphaBlack, gold, and red <i>German</i>
Kappa Alpha OmicronForest green and snow white <i>Environmental science</i>
Omicron Delta KappaSky blue and silver <i>Leadership</i>
Phi Alpha ThetaRed and light blue <i>History</i>
Phi Sigma IotaPurple and white <i>All languages</i>
Pi Kappa DeltaSilver and red <i>Forensics</i>
Pi Lambda ThetaGold <i>Education</i>
Pi Sigma AlphaRed, white, and black <i>Political science</i>
Janice Hadfield Scholar LeaderWhite <i>Non-Residential students</i>
Psi ChiPlatinum and dark blue <i>Psychology</i>
Sigma Delta PiRed and gold <i>Spanish</i>
Sigma Tau DeltaRed and black <i>English</i>
Veteran & Active MilitaryRed, white, and blue

Doane University Banner

The Doane University banner bears the seal created by Thomas Doane, Esq. and David Brainerd Perry, the first president of the college. The woman (science) trims the lamp of knowledge to light the book (Bible).

The star and cross are Christian symbols indicating Doane's Congregational heritage. Science faces west to signify westward movement of learning. The triangle denotes strength through three aspects of life: spiritual, physical, and intellectual.

Hoods & Gowns

Academic regalia lends dignity and pageantry to commencement, and reveals academic achievements through styles of gowns and hoods in various colors.

Doctor of EducationBlue
Education SpecialistBlue
Master of EducationBlue
Master of Arts in CounselingWhite
Master of Arts in LeadershipWhite
Master of Business AdministrationDrab
Master of Science in Instructional Design and TechnologyGold

In academia, different styles of gowns, hoods and colors reveal significant academic achievements among students and distinguish degree levels.

The bachelor's gown has long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown has crescent-shaped sleeves descending from the elbows. The doctor's robe has very full sleeves with three horizontal bars of velvet on each sleeve and two vertical velvet bars down the middle of the front.

Hoods are the most significant conveyors of degree identification. The master's hood is pointed, and the doctor's hood is rounded at the bottom. The hoods have velvet borders and are lined in silk or satin in the official color of the institution that conferred the degree. The color of the velvet border represents the discipline.

About Doane University

Founded in 1872 in Crete, Doane University is Nebraska's first and oldest private liberal arts and sciences college. Each year, approximately 1,000 undergraduate students from around the nation and world are enrolled at Doane's residential Crete campus, which offers 35 majors and 39 minors.

Doane's non-residential programs in Lincoln, Omaha, and online provide a learning environment for adult students. The Lincoln campus was established in 1981, and the Omaha location in 2014. There are 9 undergraduate degrees, 11 minors, and 9 graduate degrees available.

Doane's mission is to create distinctive educational experiences, immersed in the liberal arts, to prepare our students for careers and lives grounded in inquiry, ethics, and a commitment to lead and serve in the global community.

Many of today's graduates were recipients of scholarships made possible by the Doane Fund. Consider supporting the programs and students at Doane with a gift to the Doane Fund today.



Scan the QR code to
donate or follow the link
to *www.givecampus.com*

Custom engraved bricks with your
graduate's name for the sidewalk at
Cassel Open Air Theatre are available
at *doane.edu* search "Pave it Forward".



DOANE
UNIVERSITY

doane.edu