



Kansas Wesleyan University
Commencement
2025

May 17 | 10 a.m. | Tony's Pizza Events Center

Kansas Wesleyan University

Commencement Weekend 2025

Baccalaureate Service

11 a.m., Friday, May 16
Sams Chapel

Graduate and Family Picnic

Noon, Friday, May 16
Muir Gym, Student Activities Center

Nursing Pinning Ceremony

6 p.m., Friday, May 16
Sams Chapel

Commencement

10 a.m., Saturday, May 17
Tony's Pizza Events Center Arena

Mission Statement

The mission of Kansas Wesleyan University is to promote and integrate academic excellence, spiritual development, personal well-being and social responsibility.

Vision Statement

Kansas Wesleyan University graduates individuals prepared for lifelong learning, success, responsibility and service by integrating excellence in academics, co-curricular activities and experiential learning in a faith-based and caring community.

Commencement Traditions

Presidential Mace

The presidential mace was created by local artist David Anderson. It is a symbol of the legal and chartered authority of the President, to whom the Trustees have delegated authority. The Mace is ceremonial and represents an honor for a distinguished member of the faculty to carry it at university functions. It is on display in the President's Office when not being used for formal ceremonies at Kansas Wesleyan University. Each year, the recipient of the Exemplary Teacher Award has the honor of serving as the mace bearer at ceremonial academic functions for the next academic year.

Presidential Medallion

The presidential medallion consists of the seal of the university attached to the chain of office with the names of former Kansas Wesleyan University presidents engraved on the links. It was presented to President Thompson by the Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Inauguration Installation Ceremony on Sept. 27, 2013. The president wears the presidential medallion at ceremonial university academic functions.

University Banner

The university banner depicts the Hall of Pioneers logo and is used at formal university functions. The banner bearer is the president of the Student Government Association.

The Lectionary Cross

The lectionary cross has on its face the blended letters "UUMC" and "KWU," signifying the strong ties between Kansas Wesleyan and University United Methodist Church. The cross was a gift of UUMC in 2002 and was dedicated in memory of Dr. Albert L. Nelson '50, who was a Professor Emeritus of Education at KWU. The emblem was created by Charles May, a member of the UUMC congregation. The cross is used at formal KWU-UUMC services and events.

Commencement Marshals

Faculty marshal is an honor bestowed upon senior-ranking faculty members at the university. This year's faculty marshals are Barbara J. Marshall Nickell, M.A., and Steven J. Hoekstra, Ph.D.

Prof. Marshall Nickell is an associate professor of Communications Studies and Theatre Arts. Dr. Hoekstra is a professor of Psychology.

Madison K. Lambert and Dominick L. Etheridge, Class of 2026, are this year's student marshals.

Baccalaureate Service

11 a.m.
Friday, May 16, 2025
Sams Chapel

Gathering Music

Tyler R. Breneman, B.M., KWU Accompanist

****Processional***

Tyler R. Breneman

****Placing of the Lectionary Cross***

Gustavo Celiz Jr., Class of 2025

****Placing of the University Banner***

Josey L. Arthurs, Class of 2027
Student Government Association President

****Placing of the University Mace***

Bryan K. Minnich, M.S.
2023-24 KWU Exemplary Teacher

****Invocation***

Scott D. Jagodzinske, M.A., Campus Minister

Welcome

Matthew R. Thompson, Ph.D., President and CEO

****Call to Worship***

Coulson E. Riggs, Class of 2025

Special Music

I Want to be Ready by Howard Helvey

Wesleyan Chorale

Conducted by David A. Corman, M.M., Assistant Professor of Music

Accompaniment by Tyler R. Breneman

Morning Prayer

Damon Kraft, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President for Student Success

Old Testament Reading

Abigail K. Palmer, Class of 2025

Changed by God

Kristi M. Henderson, Class of 2025

Alexandra M. Mansur, Class of 2025

Special Music

Shout to God by Joseph Martin

Wesleyan Chorale

Conducted by Prof. David A. Corman

Accompaniment by Tyler R. Breneman

Gospel Lesson

Scott D. Jagodzinske

Benediction*

Krista L. Yackeyonny, Class of 2025

Recessional*

Tyler R. Breneman

Baccalaureate is a service of worship for the graduating class, families, faculty, administration, staff, trustees and friends. It is a traditional time of giving thanks in our lives for the power of God at a unique moment in the life of the graduate.

* Denotes standing as you are able

Nursing Pinning Ceremony

6 p.m.

Friday, May 16, 2025

Sams Chapel

The Nursing Pinning Ceremony is a formal ceremony during which the senior nursing students are presented with the KWU nursing pin, a symbolic welcome into the profession.

Prelude

Gustavo do Carmo, D.M.A.
Assistant Professor of Music and Collaborative Pianist

****Processional***

Dr. Gustavo do Carmo

Invocation

Angel R. Lee, Class of 2025
Student Nurse Organization President

Welcome

Matthew R. Thompson, Ph.D., President & CEO
Damon Kraft, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President for Student Success
Janeane M. Houchin, M.S.N., R.N., Director of Nursing Education

Nurse's Prayer

Jerri A. Zwegardt, M.S.N., R.N.
Associate Professor of Nursing Education and Nursing Success Coordinator

Greetings from the Nursing Class of 2025

Jaylee E. Straub, Class of 2025 President

Keynote Speaker

Andrea J. Picklesimer, M.S.N., R.N.
Associate Professor of Nursing Education and Student Nurse Organization Advisor

Special Music

Goodness of God by Jenn Johnson
Jaylee E. Straub, Soloist
Dr. Gustavo do Carmo, Accompanist

Class of 2025 Slideshow

Presentation of Nursing Leadership Award

Sarah E. Kingan, M.S.N., R.N.
Assistant Professor of Nursing Education and Clinical Coordinator

Presentation of Nursing Graduate Achievement Award

Wendy L. Gibson, M.B.A. '13, APRN, PMHNP-BC, CCRN-K
Assistant Professor of Nursing Education, Simulation and Skills Lab Coordinator

Presentation of Student Nurse Organization Awards

Jolene M. Dreher, M.S.N., R.N.
Assistant Professor of Nursing Education

Reading of the Graduates' Names

Katherine S. Sweeney, M.S.N., R.N. '93, '05
Associate Professor of Nursing Education

Pinning of Nursing Graduates

Janeane M. Houchin and Family Members of Graduates

Presentation of Roses

Jerri A. Zweygardt

Special Music and Candle Lighting

Go Light Your World by Chris Rice
Andrea J. Picklesimer, Soloist
Dr. Gustavo do Carmo, Accompanist

Florence Nightingale Pledge

Jeffrey P. Metzler, B.S.N., R.N., GERO-BC, CAC
Adjunct Professor of Nursing Education

****Benediction***

Scott D. Jagodzinske, M.A.
KWU Campus Minister

****Recessional***

Congratulations by Austin Post
Dr. Gustavo do Carmo

***Tonight's student marshal is Brooke A. Strine, Class of 2026, President-Elect,
Student Nursing Organization***

Nursing Class of 2025

Francisco D. Alvarez
Colorado Springs, CO

Molly A. Bradbury
Salina, KS

Courtney L. Dinkel
Greeley, CO

Kyndyll G. Garrison
Fresno, CA

Maleia L. Jackson
Raymore, MO

Emilie R. Johnson
Salina, KS

Angel R. Lee
Kansas City, MO

Brett A. Maddock
Oakdale, CA

Brylee R. Potter
Strong City, KS

Jenna K. Soule
Shawnee Mission, KS

Jaylee E. Straub
Salina, KS

Madison K. Thayer
Lindsborg, KS

James H. Young
Abilene, KS

Nurse's Prayer

Give me strength and wisdom, when others need my touch;
A soothing word to speak to them, their hearts yearn for so much.

Give me joy and laughter, to lift a weary soul;

Pour in me compassion, to make the broken whole.

Give me gentle, healing hands, for those left in my care;

A blessing to those who need me, this is a Nurse's Prayer.

Academic Honors and Awards

Alpha Chi Honor Society Graduating Seniors

Kristi M. Henderson
Conner A. LaRosa
Emma M. Massey
McKenna D. Mayhew
Shawna R. Rohrig
Kloe D. Young

Donald Olsen Sociology Award

Alayna G. Behrman

Donna Minor Award

Announced at Nursing Pinning Ceremony

Dora B. Newbanks Award for Distinction in Music

Rachael H. Everitt

Exemplary Student Teacher Award

Megan A. Foote

Fran Jabara Leadership Award

The Professor Fran Jabara Leadership Award recognizes graduating seniors from four-year, private Kansas institutions who display exemplary skills in leadership. Jabara, the former dean of the Wichita State University College of Business Administration, made a lifetime commitment to the advancement of excellence in education for Kansas students.
(Announced at Commencement)

KWU Theatre Artist of Character Award

Abril M. Vazquez-Ortiz

Nursing Graduate Achievement Award

Announced at Nursing Pinning Ceremony

Outstanding Accounting Students

Madalynn J. Brummit and Abigail K. Palmer

Outstanding Art and Design Graduate

Shawna R. Rohrig

Outstanding Biology Student

Trenity R. Miller

Outstanding Business Management Students

Jose A. Avila and Josie L. Koppes

Outstanding Communication Students of the Year

Beau C. Grant and Jacob A. Simpson

Outstanding Exercise Science Student

Ritter J. Steinman

Outstanding Health and Physical Education Student

Megan A. Foote

Outstanding Health Science Award

Carly A. Wells

Outstanding History Graduate

Savannah G. Bonilla

Outstanding Mathematics Student Award

Gabriel C. Phillips

Outstanding Physics Student

Sydney M. Leeper

Outstanding Social Work Student

Jaclyn E. Lawrence

Phoenix Award

Madisen H. Kratz

Rev. George Taylor Criminal Justice Award

Stephen W. Simpson III

Sports and Exercise Science Achievement Award

Catherine A. Bowman

Teachers of Promise

Kayla J. Moore and Kloe D. Young

Commencement Ceremony

10 a.m.

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Tony's Pizza Events Center Arena

Baccalaureate degree candidates with outstanding academic records are recognized at Commencement. Three distinctions are made: Summa Cum Laude (Latin for with highest honors) recognizes a cumulative and residential GPA of at least 3.9; Magna Cum Laude (with high honors) recognizes a cumulative and residential GPA of at least 3.75; and Cum Laude (with honors) recognizes a cumulative and residential GPA of at least 3.5.

Summa Cum Laude recipients are indicated by gold and purple cords, Magna Cum Laude recipients are wearing a purple cord, and Cum Laude recipients have a gold cord.

The student's earned grade-point average must equal or surpass the minimum requirements in both cumulative and residential GPA in order to qualify for these honors.

Commencement Speakers

Dr. Brandon Cheeks '05 and Dr. Ralita Cheeks '07



Drs. Brandon Cheeks '05 and Ralita Cheeks '07, who achieved their doctoral degrees from Kansas State in 2024, last year launched God Over Everything, a nonprofit organization that helps young people find the balance of God, family, youth sports and education.

Ralita Cheeks is the author of “Cracking the Code: Building Inclusive Culture and Climate,” a transformative guide for schools and organizations striving to create environments where every

individual feels seen, heard and valued. She is an educator, counselor, author and leader dedicated to transforming schools, empowering students and fostering inclusive environments.

Ralita Cheeks has served as a case manager, high school counselor, middle school counselor, virtual school counselor and district mental health liaison.

Her influence has been recognized with numerous awards, including a Woman of Achievement recognition in Salina in 2024 and the Young Alumni Award from KWU in 2018. She has received multiple accolades throughout her career for her dedication to student success, mental health advocacy and educational leadership.

Brandon Cheeks was the first Black principal of Salina's Sunset Elementary. He was selected a University Council for Educational Administration Jackson Scholar during his doctoral work, helping to further a program that builds a pipeline of graduate students of color who will seek work in education. He is an ordained minister and serves as the assistant to the pastor at St. John's Missionary Baptist in Salina, part of a litany of community and nonprofit organizations and groups with which he is involved. Others include the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Kansas, the Greater Salina Community Foundation, and the NAACP Salina Scholarship Committee.

Like his wife, Brandon Cheeks has been honored with numerous awards, including the Kansas Wesleyan Young Alumnus Award, The Community Voice Men of Excellence honor, Salina Public School Teacher of the Month, USD 305 Master Teacher Award, and the Salina NAACP Service Award.

Commencement Ceremony 2025

President Matthew R. Thompson, Ph.D., Presiding

Prelude

Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra
Conducted by Leonardo Rosario, D.M.A., Assistant Professor of Music

****Processional***

Pomp and Circumstance by Edward Elgar, arr. John Whitney
Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra

****Placing of the Lectionary Cross***

Gustavo Celiz Jr., Class of 2025

****Placing of the University Banner***

Josey L. Arthurs, Class of 2027, Student Government Association President

****Posting of the University Mace***

Bryan K. Minnich, M.S.
2023-24 KWU Exemplary Teacher

Convening of the Ceremony

Barbara J. Marshall Nickell, M.A., Associate Professor of Communication Studies and Theatre Arts

****Welcome***

Matthew R. Thompson, Ph.D., President and CEO

****Invocation***

Scott D. Jagodzinske, M.A., Campus Minister

****National Anthem***

The Star-Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key
Led by Jacob L. Corman, Class of 2025
Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra

Greetings from the Board of Trustees

Marilyn K. Foster Kirk, B.A. '68, M.Ed., Chair

Greetings from the Faculty

Karen L. Babcock Brassea, M.F.A., Associate Professor of Theatre Arts
Faculty Presiding Officer

Greetings from the Class of 2025

Clay A. Gagnon, Class of 2025 President

Musical Selection

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord by Moses Hogan
Wesleyan Chorale
Conducted by David A. Corman, M.M., Assistant Professor of Music

** Denotes standing as you are able*

Alumni Association Greeting

Zachery S. Brown, B.A. '13, President, KWU Alumni Council

Introduction of Commencement Speakers

Angel R. Lee, Class of 2025

Commencement Address

Brandon J. Cheeks, B.A. '05, Ed.D.

Ralita C. Cheeks, B.A. '07, Ed.D.

Medallion Presentation to the Graduating Senior with the Highest Academic Record

Damon Kraft, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President for Student Success

Presentation of the Professor Fran Jabara Leadership Award

Dr. Damon Kraft

Presentation of Class of 2025 M.B.A. Candidates

Dr. Damon Kraft

Conferring of M.B.A. Degrees

Dr. Matthew R. Thompson

Hooding of M.B.A. Graduates

Michelle C. Case, D.B.A., Chair, Department of Business and Accounting

Jamie R. Kootz, Ed.D., Director, Online Learning and Instructional Technology

Presentation of Class of 2025 Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Candidates

Dr. Damon Kraft

Conferring of Bachelor's Degrees

Dr. Matthew R. Thompson

Awarding of Bachelor's Degrees

Dr. Damon Kraft

Jasmin G. Dauner, B.A. '13, Registrar

Bridget R. Weiser, M.S., Vice President for Student and Community Engagement

****Alma Mater***

Wesleyan Memories by James E. Cernel

Led by Rachael H. Everitt and Jaylee E. Straub, Class of 2025

Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra

****Benediction***

Scott D. Jagodzinske

****Dismissal***

Barbara J. Marshall Nickell

*****Recessional***

Sine Nomine by Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. John Moss

Kansas Wesleyan University Orchestra

** Denotes standing as you are able*

***Please remain standing until all students and faculty have exited the arena.*

Masters of Business Administration Degrees

Brandon M.J. Aragon
Denver, CO

Josephine E. Buhr
Buffalo, ND

Michaela B. Crowe
Shawnee Mission, KS

Jagan W. Daughters
Hilltop Lakes, TX

Rodrigo T. De Castro
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Josie M. Deckinger
Wichita, KS

Abaigeal G. Donovan
Salina, KS

Joseph O. Ellis
Frenley, NV

Carlos A. Fenton
Norwalk, CA

Ainsworth N. Grant
Laventille, Spain

Kaleb D. Hagans
Hays, KS

Caden S. Hale
Glenpool, OK

Izaiah A. Hale
Wichita, KS

Steven E. Harvey Jr.
San Francisco, CA

Easton A. Hunter
Colwich, KS

Carter J. Huyser
Oskaloosa, IA

Heidi E. Jones
Plainville, KS

Savannah I. Koga
Meridian, ID

Rowen T. Mayo
Wichita, KS

Kansuke Okada
Sakai-shi Osaka, Japan

Jaylen R. Peterson
Trophy Club, TX

Kennedy C. Rater
Salina, KS

Ryan D. Schafer
Salina, KS

Brock W. Schramme
Celina, TX

Camden J. Sesna
Kearney, NE

Jill G. Stephens
Colby, KS

Justin P. Sullivan
Salina, KS

Ethan M. Thompson
Olathe, KS

Ethan P. Vikander
Aberdeen, SD

Elizabeth R. Willison
Moore, OK

M.B.A. Hooding

Kansas Wesleyan's Master of Business Administration degree candidates will receive their hoods during today's ceremony. Colors of the inner silk indicate the institution from which the wearer received the degree. The outer velvet border is trimmed in a color indicating the field of learning. The academic hood is a tradition that dates back to medieval times and some of the first universities in Europe. The hooding symbolizes the transition from student to 'master' and is a special honor for those who have completed a graduate degree.

Bachelor of Arts Degrees

Muhamad B. Abusharkh
Suisun City, CA
Exercise Science:
Personal Training

Dawson C. Adams
Hooks, TX
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Joyce A. Adams
Salina, KS
Psychology
Magna Cum Laude

Alexander Alarcon
Aurora, CO
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Cristabelle G. Alvarado
Sylmar, CA
Criminal Justice

Jerrian C. Anderson
Salina, KS
Communications/
Public Relations

Adrian Aranda
Salina, KS
Business Management/
Marketing Communications

Jose J. Avila
Manhattan, KS
Business Management
Summa Cum Laude

Guilherme B. Ayres
Goiana, Brazil
Business Management

Keyon R. Baccus
Minneapolis, KS
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Samuel B. Baggett
Wylie, TX
Business Management

Starsky G. Banks
Lewisville, TX
Sports Management

Tristan Bayssade
Saint-Genes Champanelle, France
Business Management
Cum Laude

Ashley Bissell
Windsor, Co
Art and Design: Photography

Savannah G. Bonilla
Salina, KS
History

Rachael E. Bradshaw
Delphos, KS
Psychological Services
Cum Laude

Madalynn J. Brummit
Rock Island, IL
Accounting
Cum Laude

Alycia A. Buchanan
Salina, KS
Criminal Justice

Ethan L. Buckner
Salina, KS
Business Management

Emilee G. Buhl
Texas City, TX
Sports Management

Alvin J. Cahee
Oroville, CA
Communications

Jaci R. Carter
Jamestown, KS
Art and Design: Photography
Magna Cum Laude

Jontrell J. Casimere
Houston, TX
Criminal Justice

Gustavo Celiz, Jr.
Wichita, KS
Business Management/
Accounting

Jacob L. Corman
Salina, KS
Music Performance

Luke M. Craft
Manhattan, KS
Accounting

Ava R. Crotty
Wichita, KS
Business Management/
Accounting
Magna Cum Laude

Lucas C. Dankenbring
Marysville, KS
Sports Management

Raul Davalos Gavino
San Luis Potosi, Mexico
Business Management
Cum Laude

Ty L. Davidson
Lakin, KS
Exercise Science:
Personal Training
Summa Cum Laude

Nolan A. De Los Santos
Lancaster, TX
Sports Management

Ciaran A. DeCuir
Henderson, NV
Emergency Management

Bryson A. Diaz
Salina, KS
Sports Management

Angel C. Diaz-Retana
Waukegan, IL
Marketing Communications

Elric Edge
Salina, KS
Psychology/Sociology

Caleigh M. Evans
Russell, KS
Business Management

Rachael H. Everitt
Kansas City, KS
Music Education
Summa Cum Laude

Luis D. Farinas
Maturin, Venezuela
Business Management

Hannah G. Farley
McPherson, KS
Social Work
Magna Cum Laude

Tyler P. Favretto
Quebec, Canada
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness
Cum Laude

Sebastian R. Fernandez Sabatini
Madrid, Spain
Sports Management
Cum Laude

Miranda J. Fogal
Monticello, IL
Criminal Justice

Megan A. Foote
Louisburg, KS
Health and Physical Education
Magna Cum Laude

Clay A. Gagnon
Andover, KS
Business Management/
Accounting
Cum Laude

Keanu J. Galang
Oakley, CA
Sports Management

Nathan L. Galusha
Fallon, NV
Criminal Justice
Cum Laude

Alex J. Garcia
North Pole, AK
Business Management

Madison A. Garcia
Weslaco, TX
Psychology

Ricardo A. Garcia
Salina, KS
Emergency Management

Braydon L. Gibson
Hays, KS
Business Management

Gage E. Girk
Protection, KS
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Deyondre K. Gomez
Watsonville, CA
Criminal Justice

Emilio Gonzalez
Tucson, AZ
Psychology

Sarah L. Gonzalez
Centennial, CO
Psychology

Valeria Gonzalez
Lakin, KS
Social Work/
Psychology

Jacob A. Gormley
Salina, KS
Exercise Science:
Personal Training
Cum Laude

Beau C. Grant
Wichita, KS
Public Relations/
Communications
Cum Laude

Chloe M. Grusing
Cheney, KS
Social Work

Gonzalo Gaubeka Morales
Madrid, Spain
Business Management

Riley K. Gwin
Houston, TX
Business Management

Jayden A. Hall
Wichita, KS
Business Management

Austin M. Harden
Topeka, KS
Business Management
Cum Laude

Daren D. Hawkins
Tulsa, OK
Exercise Science:
Personal Training

Ashley A. Hawthorne
Henderson, NV
Business Management

Kristi M. Henderson
Acton, CA
Art and Design:
Graphic Design
Summa Cum Laude

Herman Hill IV
Salina, KS
Psychology

Jack E. Horacek
Topeka, KS
Sports Management

Tammy A. Houston
Cleveland, TX
Theatre Arts:
Music Theatre

Durrell J. Hudspeth, Jr.
Wichita, KS
Business Management

Grace A. Hutchinson
Manhattan, KS
Elementary Education
Magna Cum Laude

Arlander J. Johnson IV
Salina, KS
Psychology/
Social Work

Madeleine P. Johnson
Hugoton, KS
Communications

Landon D. Jones
Murphy, TX
Sports Management

Zachary C.J. Juhl
Salina, KS
Exercise Science:
Personal Training

Kourtney J. Kaufman
Moundridge, KS
Business Management
Magna Cum Laude

Aiden M. Kendall
Newton, KS
Emergency Management
Summa Cum Laude

Colby M. Klieman
Manhattan, KS
Business Management

Ryah M. Klima
Concordia, KS
Communications
Cum Laude

Trent C. Kolb
Hiawatha, KS
Sports Management

Josie L. Koppes
Manhattan, KS
Business Management
Magna Cum Laude

Madisen H. Kratz
North Sioux City, SD
Social Work

Sarah G. Krenowicz
Frisco, TX
Sports Management
Cum Laude

Alana I. Lamley
Kansas City, MO
Social Work
Cum Laude

Deric R. Lapuz
Oakley, CA
Business Management

Conner A. LaRosa
Herington, KS
Sports Management
Summa Cum Laude

Jaclyn E. Lawrence
Basehor, KS
Social Work

Macie D. Lehman
Tribune, KS
Psychology

Alex J. Littlejohn
Newton, KS
Business Management

Daniel J. Longre
Minden, NV
History
Cum Laude

Bailey J. Mann
Frost, TX
Elementary Education

Alexandra M. Mansur
Henderson, NV
Sports Management
Magna Cum Laude

Tiana O. Marion
Salina, KS
English
Magna Cum Laude

Nicolas A. Martinez
Parker, CO
Business Management
Cum Laude

William J. McGee
Reno, NV
Sports Management
Magna Cum Laude

Daniel E. Micheletti
Islip, NY
Sports Management

Taylor I. Miller
McPherson, KS
Business Management

Petrie X. Moua
White Bear Lake, MN
Accounting

Jerzee M. Mullins
Salina, KS
English

Christopher M. Muns
San Angelo, TX
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Makayla D. Munson
Moscow, KS
Social Work

Anahi G. Navarrete
Liberal, KS
Accounting
Cum Laude

Amanda J. Noller
Glen Elder, KS
Psychological Services
Cum Laude

Brandon L. Oaks
Salina, KS
Art and Design:
Graphic Design
Magna Cum Laude

Emma I. O'Donnell
Battle Creek, MI
Sports Management

Anthony N. Orocio
Derby, KS
Accounting

Anthony Orozco Ramos
Bakersfield, CA
Business Management
Cum Laude

Santiago L. Pagnutti
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Marketing Communications
Cum Laude

Abigail K. Palmer
Salina, KS
Accounting
Summa Cum Laude

Collin A. Patterson
Windsor, CA
Sports Management
Magna Cum Laude

Darrias D. Pearsall
Lee's Summit, MO
Business Management

Jackson M. Penny
Shawnee, KS
Business Management
Magna Cum Laude

David Pereira
Sao Paulo, Brazil
Business Management

Collin D. Phelps
Salina, KS
Business Management
Cum Laude

James D. Preston
Tomball, TX
Sports Management

Danny Ramirez
Calexico, CA
Criminal Justice

Davin M. Reed
Oklahoma City, OK
Business Management

Taiton G. Reed
Salina, KS
Music Performance

Joseph C. Richard
Missouri City, TX
Business Management

Nathan T. Righi
Pekin, IL
Criminal Justice

Giovanni B. Rios
Temecula, CA
Business Management
Magna Cum Laude

Julius D. Rodgers
Litchfield Park, AZ
Sports Management

Shawna R. Rohrig
Salina, KS
Art Administration/
Marketing Communication
Summa Cum Laude

Angel Roman
Hastings, FL
Sports Management
Magna Cum Laude

Eric A. Romero
Rio Rancho, NM
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Andres F. Ruiz
Cali, Colombia
Sports Management
Cum Laude

Colin M. Salgado-Lindo
Las Vegas, NV
Business Management

Koby B.M. Schroeder
Marysville, KS
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Anthony T. Schulte
Salina, KS
Health and Physical Education

Emma G. Schumacher
Winfield, KS
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness

Vanessa C. Sexton
Burleson, TX
Social Work
Cum Laude

Lauren J. Shaw
Arlington, TX
Elementary Education

Kacen J. Shreffler
Caldwell, ID
Criminal Justice

Parker B. Simmons
Emporia, KS
History

Jacob A. Simpson
Broken Arrow, OK
Communications
Cum Laude

Sloan P. Simpson
Bakersfield, CA
Business Management

Stephen W. Simpson III
Kingman, AZ
Criminal Justice
Summa Cum Laude

Avery J. Smith
Leawood, KS
Sports Management/
Health and Physical Education

Brandon I. Stapleton
Assaria, KS
Business Management

Ritter J. Steinmann
Cleveland, TN
Exercise Science:
Personal Training/
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training
Summa Cum Laude

Cameron L. Stevenson
Denton, TX
Business Management

Marti N. Strickert
Lee's Summit, MO
Business Management

Jovan A. Suarez
Salina, KS
Business Management
Cum Laude

Jonathan E. Swagerty
Delphos, KS
Emergency Management
Cum Laude

Tyler M. Tarvin
North Richland, TX
Business Management

Daeden R. Taylor
Fortuna, CA
Business Management
Cum Laude

Kara A. Thompson
Rio Rancho, NM
Criminal Justice
Cum Laude

Joaquin Toledo
Generh Pacheco, Argentina
Business Management
Cum Laude

Manuel Tovar
Fullerton, CA
Psychology
Cum Laude

Jordan M. Trice
Pasadena, CA
Sociology

Abril M. Vazquez-Ortiz
Wichita, KS
Theatre Arts: Theatre
Cum Laude

Adam W. Vigars
Princeton, IL
Criminal Justice
Summa Cum Laude

Cole P. Walgren
Dousman, WI
Exercise Science:
Fitness and Wellness
Cum Laude

Brett H. Walls
Taft, CA
Exercise Science:
Personal Training

Marquis J. Washington
Antioch, CA
Sociology

Kerrigan West
Bel Aire, KS
Sports Management

Jacob J. Williamson
Reno, NV
Business Management
Magna Cum Laude

Rolandius O. Williamson
Birmingham, AL
Communications/
Public Relations

Dylan B. Worrell
White City, KS
Business Management

Thalen M. Wright
Lee's Summit, MO
Business Management
Cum Laude

Kloe D. Young
Bennington, KS
Elementary Education
Summa Cum Laude

Bachelor of Science Degrees

Olivia Alls
Shawnee, OK
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Magna Cum Laude

Francisco D. Alvarez
Colorado Springs, CO
Nursing

Alayna G. Behrman
Craig, CO
Biomedical Chemistry/
Sociology
Cum Laude

Catherine A. Bowman
Bucklin, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Summa Cum Laude

Molly A. Bradbury
Salina, KS
Nursing

Eliza A. Camp
Winfield, KS
Biomedical Chemistry
Cum Laude

Caitlyn H. Carlos
Yucaipa, CA
Biology

Caitlyn N. Collier
Hobart, OK
Biology

Grace E. Conner
Ogden, UT
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training

Courtney L. Dinkel
Greeley, CO
Nursing

Alexis C. Dixon
Aurora, CO
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Samantha L. Espinoza
Galva, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training

Kyndyll G. Garrison
Fresno, CA
Nursing

Israel T. Good
Beaumont, CA
Biology
Cum Laude

Cody J. Herdman
Aiken, SC
Network Management

Valeria Hernandez Maciel
Orem, UT
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training

Keenan A. Hobbs
Bigelow, AR
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training

Maleia L. Jackson
Raymore, MO
Nursing

Alexis J. Jimenez
Zephyrhills, FL
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Heather John
Winter Park, FL
Biology

Emilie R. Johnson
Salina, KS
Nursing

Angel R. Lee
Kansas City, MO
Nursing

Sydney M. Leeper
Ingalls, KS
Biomedical Chemistry/
Physics

Adriana M. Lewis
Colorado Springs, CO
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Brett A. Maddock
Oakdale, CA
Nursing
Cum Laude

Lexi M. Marquez
Henderson, NV
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Emma M. Massey
Wichita, KS
Biomedical Chemistry/
Biology
Magna Cum Laude

McKenna D. Mayhew
Saint Marys, KS
Biomedical Chemistry
Summa Cum Laude

Kira M. McGrown
Wichita, KS
Biomedical Chemistry
Cum Laude

Trenity R. Miller
Ada, OK
Biology
Summa Cum Laude

McKenna N. Minneman
Assaria, KS
Biology

Yissell Navarro
West Valley City, UT
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training

Precious A. Nwosu
Goleta, CA
Biology

Gabriel C. Phillips
Valley Center, KS
Financial Mathematics
Cum Laude

Savannah A. Pilsner
Columbus, TX
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy

Brylee R. Potter
Strong City, KS
Nursing

Paige M. Proper
Belton, MO
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Magna Cum Laude

Jada J. Renner
Oakley, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Summa Cum Laude

Coulson E. Riggs
Yukon, OK
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training
Cum Laude

Joni B. Schroeder
Salina, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Cum Lauda

Leslie Serrato
Herriman, UT
Biology

Jenna K. Soule
Shawnee Mission, KS
Nursing

Jaylee E. Straub
Salina, KS
Nursing

Taylor N. Suko
Marshall, MN
Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training
Magna Cum Laude

Mackenzie Sweet
Parker, CO
Health and Human Services

Madison K. Thayer
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Nursing

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Health Science:
Pre-Athletic Training

Pastor R. Valdez
Chino, CA
Physics

Ashtun K. Villagomez
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Biomedical Chemistry
Cum Laude

Carly A. Wells
Dwight, KS
Health Science:
Pre-Physical Therapy
Cum Laude

Camry D. Whitekiller
Konawa, OK
Biology
Cum Laude

Kaitlyn A. Wrye
Blue Springs, MO
Biomedical Chemistry
Cum Laude

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Cache, OK
Biology

James H. Young
Abilene, KS
Nursing

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The degree candidates you see before you today will soon share a bond with more than 10,000 alumni throughout the world. Members of the Alumni Association are fiercely loyal to their alma mater and return often for a variety of events. They also gather at sites throughout the nation to reminisce about their time at KWU and to advance the university into the future.

If you would like more information about the Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Association, please contact the KWU Advancement Office at 785-833-4338 or alumni@kwu.edu. You can also follow the latest news at KWU.edu/alumni.

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William J. Doria, Ph.D.	Kelly M. Moore*, D.S.W.	Lori S. Wright, M.F.A.
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Directed by Leonardo Rosario, D.M.A.

Assistant Professor of Music

Daniel W. Albertson**	Emma D. Haag	Merissa E. Bailey Rios
Cameron Anaya^	Reese T. Kimmi	Cristina Segura
Vanessa M. Arceo	Nancy Klostermeyer^	Mark Sibilla^
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Congratulations Class of 2025!

Thank you for your many meaningful contributions
to our community and the KWU experience.
You will always be a part of the Coyote family!

Make plans now to come back for Homecoming, Oct. 24-26, 2025.



Graduates' Prayer

God of new journeys, circle today's graduates
And make them your own.
Call them to care for each other.
Give them eyes to see your gifts, ears to hear your plan,
Hearts to embrace all of your creation, and
Hands to serve you every day of their lives.
In your name we pray. Amen.



The Alma Mater

Wesleyan Memories

Oh Wesleyan, dear Wesleyan!
The days may come, the days may go.
But still our hearts in mem'ry cling
To those college days of long ago.

The color scraps, the student pranks,
The calls we made at Schuyler Hall,
The picnic on the Smoky's banks,
We recall them all, we love them all.

Thru youth, thru prime and when the days
Of harvest time to us shall come;
Thru all we'll bear the mem'ries dear,
Of those golden days at the Wesleyan.

Then when perchance we're far away,
And cares of life to each are come,
We'll not forget, e'en then to pray,
For the Wesleyan, dear Wesleyan.