



BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY

# *Commencement Ceremony*

SATURDAY, THE THIRTY-FIRST OF JANUARY  
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-SIX

TEN PAST NINE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

MID-AMERICA CENTER  
ONE ARENA WAY  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

# Program

Prelude .....	The Plymouth Brass
Processional .....	The Plymouth Brass
National Anthem .....	Ms. Liz Pettinger
Invocation .....	Dr. Stephen Linenberger
Welcome and Introductions .....	Dr. Mary Hawkins President, Bellevue University
Commencement Speaker .....	Mr. Terry Kroeger CEO & President, Smith Kroeger
Student Speaker .....	Patience Mudundulu <i>The Work That Built the Dream: A Journey of Sacrifice, Education, and Becoming</i>
Authorization of Degrees .....	Dr. Mary Hawkins President, Bellevue University
	Mr. Michael S. Cassling Bellevue University Board of Directors
Presentation of College of Business Doctoral & Master's Degree Candidates .....	Dr. Rebecca Murdock Dean, College of Business
Presentation of College of Arts and Sciences Master's Degree Candidates .....	Dr. Michelle Eppler Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Presentation of College of Science and Technology Master's Degree Candidates .....	Dr. Mary Dobransky Dean, College of Science and Technology

# Program

Presentation of College of Business

Bachelor's Degree Candidates ..... Dr. Rebecca Murdock  
Dean, College of Business

Presentation of College of Arts and Sciences

Bachelor's Degree Candidates ..... Dr. Michelle Eppler  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Presentation of College of Engineering, Technology and Management

Bachelor's Degree Candidates ..... Dr. Matthew Davis  
Dean, College of Engineering, Technology and Management

Presentation of College of Science and Technology

Bachelor's and Associate's Degree Candidates ..... Dr. Mary Dobransky  
Dean, College of Science and Technology

Benediction ..... Dr. Stephen Linenberger  
*(The audience will please rise and remain standing through the Recessional.)*

Recessional ..... The Plymouth Brass



## The Bellevue University Seal

At the center, the great mission of Bellevue University, founded in 1966. A Diamond Circle of Excellence, signifying you - our remarkable graduate - who carries this mission into the world. Eruditio Vera Pro Vera Vita: Real Learning for Real Life. The heartbeat of Bellevue University and our commitment to prepare you for a life of leadership. Quills, representing the gift of knowledge. Carry forth to make a difference. Purple to inspire your life's journey with strength and energy. Gold, the color of success. A symbol of your triumph over the challenges and our lasting belief in what you will achieve.

# Commencement Dignitaries



Terry Kroeger  
Commencement Speaker

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Terry Kroeger serves as Chairman and CEO of Smith Kroeger, a full-service advertising agency headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. Since acquiring the agency in 2019, Kroeger has grown Smith Kroeger fourfold and expanded its services in traditional and digital media, creative services, web development, and public relations. In 2025, Smith Kroeger acquired RCG, making Smith Kroeger one of the Midwest's leading agencies.

Before entering advertising, Kroeger spent more than three decades in the newspaper industry, including serving as President and CEO of BH Media Group and Publisher of the Omaha World-Herald. During his tenure, he led the company's sale to Berkshire Hathaway in 2011 and oversaw BH Media Group's growth through strategic acquisitions of newspapers and broadcast media.

He has served on numerous boards, including the Associated Press; the Omaha Symphony Association; the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce board, which he chaired; and the University of Nebraska Foundation, other others. He currently serves on the Boards of Directors for the Aksarben Foundation, Westside Community Schools Foundation, and StratCom's Strategic Consultation Committee.

A native of Nebraska, Kroeger earned degrees in finance and economics from the University of Nebraska. He lives in Omaha with his wife, Jackie, and together they have four adult children working in healthcare, education, technology, and counseling.



**Patience Mudundulu**  
Student Speaker

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Dr. Patience Mudundulu graduates today with a Doctor of Business Administration from Bellevue University. She was born in Lusaka, Zambia, raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, and currently resides in Chicago, Illinois.

Her academic journey reflects perseverance, resilience, and a deep commitment to education. As an immigrant, Patience worked alongside her family to support her educational pursuits, guided by the belief that education is the most meaningful investment one can make. Her dissertation, “Navigating the American Dream: A Narrative Study of Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the United States,” examines the lived experiences of Sub-Saharan African immigrants and highlights the voices and experiences of immigrants who, like her, have worked tirelessly to transform hardship into opportunity.

In addition to her DBA, Patience holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and a Master of Business Administration from Bellevue University.

Prior to her advanced studies, she co-founded the International Shine Bright Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering underserved children through access to basic necessities, education, and stable living environments.

Dr. Mudundulu currently serves as a Senior Global Go-to-Market Leader for Agentic AI at Amazon Web Services, is a frequent speaker at industry events, and teaches AI and Machine Learning as an adjunct professor at City Colleges of Chicago.

# *Doctor of Business Administration*

Adam A. Canaday:

*Dissertation Title:* Army Leadership in Civilian Management Positions: How Army Leadership Skills are Interpreted and Evaluated by Civilian Employers

*Dissertation Chair:* Dr. Nick Wolff

Ida Lopez Chan:

*Dissertation Title:* Leadership During Crisis: A Qualitative Study of Health Care Middle Managers and Senior Leaders to identify Crisis Leadership Competencies

*Dissertation Chair:* Dr. Nick Wolff

Joseph W. Davis:

*Dissertation Title:* Abandoning Ship? Employee Turnover Intention in Firms on the Decline – A Phenomenological Study

*Dissertation Chair:* Dr. Nick Wolff

LaTasha Patryce Ellis:

*Dissertation Title:* Perceived Factors Influencing Leader Decisions Regarding Remote Work in a Small Midwest University: A Phenomenological Qualitative Inquiry

*Dissertation Chair:* Dr. Eric Riley

Patience Mudundulu:

*Dissertation Title:* Navigating the American Dream: A Narrative Study of Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the United States

*Dissertation Chair:* Dr. Nick Wolff

Jennifer J. Parker:

*Dissertation Title:* Exploring Work-Life Balance: Women-Owned Small Businesses

*Dissertation Chair:* Dr. Martha Helland

# *Doctor of Business Administration*

Jeremy B. Wright:

*Dissertation Title:* The Effect of Emotional Intelligence on Occupational Stress and Burnout  
Among Human Resources Professionals

*Dissertation Chair:* Dr. Eric Riley

# *Ph.D in Human Capital Management*

Christopher Michael:

*Dissertation Title:* A HERO-Based Approach to Diversity and Inclusion in Veteran Affairs

*Dissertation Chair:* Dr. Paul Poppler



# *Doctoral Biographies*

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## Adam A. Canaday

Adam A. Canaday is graduating with a Doctor of Business Administration. Dr. Canaday also holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an MBA. His dissertation, "Army Leadership in Civilian Management Positions," explores how civilian hiring managers evaluate and value military leadership skills in applicants for management-level positions. Currently, Dr. Canaday leads both the HR and Quality departments for a worldwide manufacturing firm and also serves as a Director of Instruction for Construction Engineer Leadership Courses for the U.S. Army Reserves. Dr. Canaday plans to pivot from private enterprise employment to academia and secure a role as a university professor in business, HR, or related fields. Dr. Canaday would like to thank his wife, Mary, and his children, Dave and Aiden, for their support and love.

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## Ida Lopez Chan

Ida Lopez Chan is graduating with a Doctor of Business Administration. Dr. Lopez Chan also holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance and a Master of Business. Her dissertation, "Leadership During Crisis: A Qualitative Study of Health Care Middle Managers and Senior Leaders," explores the crisis leadership competencies utilized by leaders during challenging times. Currently, Dr. Lopez Chan is the CEO of a Health Care District and aspires to become a professor at a community college or university. Dr. Lopez Chan would like to give special thanks to her husband Willie Chan, her sons Christian and Aaron Chan, her professors, and her colleagues in the DBA program, as well as her Lopez family.

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## Joseph W. Davis

Joseph W. Davis is graduating with a Doctor of Business Administration degree. Dr. Davis' dissertation, "Abandoning Ship: Employee Turnover Intention in Firms on the Decline: A Phenomenological Study," studies the choice an employee makes to leave or remain with a declining company, and what management can do before it's too late. Joseph holds two master's degrees in Business Administration and Educational Leadership. He is currently pursuing a second doctorate in education, specializing in curriculum and instruction, through Columbia Southern University. In the future, Dr. Davis hopes to assist educational and non-profit organizations in developing into exceptional facilities that focus on community enhancement.

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## LaTasha Patryce Ellis

LaTasha Patryce Ellis is graduating with her Doctor of Business Administration degree, building on her academic foundation that includes a Bachelor of Arts in Management and a Master of Business Administration. Dr. Ellis' dissertation, "Perceived Factors Influencing Leader Decisions Regarding Remote Work in a Small Midwest University: A Phenomenological Qualitative Inquiry," explores how leaders navigate decision-making in evolving work environments. She was recently promoted to Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Baker College. Dr. Ellis extends heartfelt thanks to her husband, children, family, friends, and all who supported her throughout this journey.

## Christopher Michael

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Christopher Michael is graduating with a Ph.D. in Human Capital Management. Dr. Michael holds a Master of Arts in Business and Professional Communication and a Bachelor of Arts in Health Communication. His dissertation, “A Hero Based Approach to Diversity and Inclusion in Veteran Affairs,” theorized an improvement to hiring practices by combining diversity and inclusion, and merit-based hiring. Dr. Michael currently works for the Salt Lake City Veterans Affairs as the Organizational Health Specialist and hopes to become a professor. Dr. Michael would like to thank his wife, Holly, his family, and friends for their years of support.

## Patience Mudundulu

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Patience Mudundulu is graduating with a Doctor of Business Administration. Dr. Mudundulu also holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and an MBA from Bellevue University. Her dissertation, “Navigating the American Dream: A Narrative Study of Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the United States,” explores how immigrants overcome barriers to pursue education and opportunity. Patience is a Sr. Global Go-To-Market Leader for Agentic AI at Amazon Web Services and an Adjunct Professor of AI in Chicago. Dr. Mudundulu hopes to continue advancing innovation, representation, and access in her field. Dr. Mudundulu gives special thanks to her family for their unwavering support.

## Jennifer J. Parker

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Jennifer J. Parker is graduating with a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) from Bellevue University. She also holds an MBA and a Bachelor of Science in Management from Bellevue University. Dr. Parker's dissertation, "Exploring Work-Life Balance: Women-Owned Small Businesses," examines how single mothers balance the demands of small business ownership with their family responsibilities. It was published in the Journal for Excellence in Business and Education in February 2025. She is currently focused on real estate investing through her company, JV Parker Properties, LLC, and hopes to continue learning, growing, and building. Dr. Parker dedicates this achievement to her children, whose patience, understanding, and unconditional love made this day possible

## Jeremy B. Wright

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Jeremy B. Wright is graduating with a Doctor of Business Administration. He holds a bachelor's degree, Master of Business Administration degree, and Master of Science in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, all from Bellevue University. Dr. Wright's dissertation, "The Effect of Emotional Intelligence on Occupational Stress and Burnout Among HR Professionals," explores critical factors in workforce well-being. Currently a Human Resources Business Partner specializing in talent management, performance management and organizational development, Jeremy also teaches undergraduate courses. He is the author of the Peace and Purpose book series, a contribution to the personal development genre. Dr. Wright aims to become a Fortune 500 HR Executive. Dr. Wright gives special thanks to his mother, Vickie Wright, dissertation chair, Dr. Riley, professors, doctoral cohort, and family for their support.

# Master's Degrees

## Accounting

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Grace Moore

## Business Administration

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Robert Anthony

Eric Wayne Bedford

Renae M. Brandt

Glenn L. Brass

Jordan David Darensbourg

Seb E. Gall

Mahmoud Hadri

Annika L. Hubbard

Ahou Grace Daniele Kouassi

Katherine A. Little

Nicholas Robert Lucyshyn

Patrick J. McCarthy

David Merchan

Jennifer L. Newcombe

Aspen Leigh Oliverius

Hossana Agedew Redi

Ebony Michelle Rhymer

Albert Joseph Orr Ryan

Leonardo Schio

Megan Maureen Walter

## Educational Leadership

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Yoav Daniel Arjhang

## Healthcare Administration

---

Mary Louise Bolotaolo

Sarah Ann Carroll

Marcelo Fernández Campos

Adrian Kenneth Balbuena Labayen

David Allen Redfern

Shannon Vaccaro

## Human Resource Strategic Management

---

Dawn Marie Anderson

Tiffany Jo Carstens

Jonathan A. Castro Cuevas

Michelle D. Cruell

Dacia Carter Duncan

Sharon Felt

Jessica Lopez

Erika Yvette Martinez

Michael Joe Mitchell

Kaylah Morgan

Amber Rudolf

Carlos J. Tapia

Craig Tarr

Victoria Elaine Wentzel

Scott Wilson

## Management

---

Jacqueline Glover

Brock Richard Townsend

Vy T. Tran

## Organizational Leadership

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Joseph P. Black

Leah M. Bryant

Tyler N. Butler

Rebecca Crawford

Scott Davis

Kayla M. Dowdy

Jameelah Finch

Dustin Floyd

Michelle Hillebrandt

Felicity Ann Jackson

Kristin Lee Jordan

Mark Linenberger

Rachel A. Verch

## Supply Chain Management

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Yinka Emmanuel Akindele

Brenda Rae Green

## Business and Professional Communication

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Bryce Merrill

Kimberlee J. Obert

Carson James Townsend

## Child, Youth, and Family Studies

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Rena Christoffersen

Autumn Cotton

Isabella Morris

Claire Elizabeth Mueller

Brittanie Jo Snyder

## Clinical Counseling

---

Charlee Florez

## Clinical Mental Health Counseling

---

Gabrielle L. Albeck  
Sumreen Asif  
Sarah J. Barnhart  
Audrey Kathleen Barton  
Lesley Noel Belew  
Kathryn A. Benish  
Alex Bitting  
Maggie M. Blodgett  
Jenna Rae Buono  
Peyton Ivy Campbell  
Ana Maria Cocea  
Libby Collins  
Madison Criner  
Ryan Anson Cuddy  
Tikisha May Cuevas  
Terry Lee Davis Jr.  
Daeshanna Debel  
Roseanna Marie Elizondo  
Amanda May Frame  
Emily G. Fraser  
Lauragale Madeline Freese  
Michaela Renee George  
Kiersten Gonzalez  
Joy Salem Hamati  
Monique Lauren Harkins  
Bobbie Jo Hunter  
Mattee J. Kucera  
Alaina D. Kuisma  
Kashawn Stephen Lungelow  
Haley Mason  
Kenya McIntyre  
Jennifer Ann Menden  
Stacy Nelson  
Codi Jeaneen Perry

Christine Priselac  
Nicole Lynn Puentes  
Robert Dwight Reece II  
Khatren Carolina Reed  
Darius Eugene Richardson-Barnes  
Tara Lynn Smith  
Madison Danielle Spurgeon  
Melanie M. Staver  
Sara Ventriglia  
Jennifer Walsh

## Human Services

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Tuesday J. Kuhlman  
Samantha Marie Livermore  
Shiloh Mudundulu  
Jessica Schaben  
Kimberly R. Trenou

## Industrial and Organizational Psychology

---

Nicholas G. Barnett  
Adrian Billhardt  
Chase James Brownlee  
April Shernell Davis  
Tiffany Downey  
Patricia D. Mason  
Florence Pui Kam Ng  
Emanuel Pope IV  
Marilyn Michelle Elaine Joyce Reynolds  
Haley Nicole Rhyne  
Tianna Rule-Daghaghle  
Holly Joy Schopfer

## Professional Studies

---

Melanie Ann Jones

## Teaching

---

Meckenzie Ryan Gleason  
Zachary Ryan Mora James

## Business Analytics

---

Brittany Elliott  
Evans K. Kpesenu  
Srikant Parasar  
Cynthia Richards  
Maria Rivera Mercado  
Salim Tareq

## Computer Information Systems

---

Joseph Matias Julius Baca  
J. W. Calinger  
Mahima Gajjarapu  
Chandramouli Padamata  
Pabitra Phuyal  
Rakesh Saidugari  
Sushant Timalisina

## Criminal Justice

---

Kelsey Marion Meharg  
Noyiya Yionna Smith

## Cybersecurity

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Andrea Barton  
Fishel Brach  
Ivett Cuadra  
Timothy Joshua Parrish  
Keri N. Pauly  
Ezra Achamyeleh Shuremu  
Alexander Charles Taylor  
Nicholas J. Terrigino

## Data Science

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Barath Anandaraman  
Usharani Balamurugan  
Darius D. Brown  
Swapnil Dilip Chavan  
Javier Corpus Prieto  
Foday Lahai Deen-Swarray  
Alyssa Renee Graham  
Amy Rebekah Hatman  
Klyle Kingston  
Ryan Krenke  
Fatma Mahfoud  
Vasavi Nagesh  
Russell Edward Parker  
Rohit Patil  
Tae-Hyun Sakong  
Hamza Salah  
Akshay Sharma  
Sreenivasulu Somu  
Subash Karthick Suriyamurthy  
Arulsree Mozhi Thangaraj  
Santhakumar  
Jeffrey Tal Thomas  
Karthika Vellingiri

## Project Management

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Saeed Amjadian

## Management Information Systems

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Angela Briana Burton  
Rakshya Dhakal  
Alexa Gudiel  
Chiemela P. Oji  
Alexis Julius Gapas Ranga  
Pavan Kumar Uttharpally  
Thopa Venkata Saikarthik  
Christopher Michael Wieskamp

# *Bachelor's Degrees*

## **Accounting**

---

Juliana Avila  
Amanda Nichole Clark  
Megan C. Kemper  
Kerwana Maffei-Roberts  
Kyra L. Peterson  
Jose Antonio Ramirez Jr.  
Alice Anderson Watson

## **Business**

---

Derrell L. Chastain  
Michelle K. Elias  
Maggie Marie Fichtl  
Jonathan Tyrell Frazier  
Jamie L. Harlan  
Mitchelle John Jurado  
Michael Patrick Murphy  
Jason Paul Ricks  
Bobby Riouse  
Jaimie Rae Tietsort  
Jesus Zuniga

## **Business Administration**

---

DaTrina L. Cain  
Nina Govea  
Katie D. Meldrum  
Sierra Janelle Nicely  
Hector N. Ramirez  
Rylee Kay Seim  
Collin Jon Shuttters

## **Contact Center Management and Leadership**

---

Staci Lynn Jackson

## **Finance**

---

Natalie G. Arnold  
Ryan Heath Bartee Jr.

## **Healthcare Management**

---

Bionca Niquisha Allen-Devoe  
Geneidra Flourence  
Zoey A. Frazier  
Kimberly Michelle Hawkins  
Wendy R. Karr  
Lakeshia Knowles  
Yetunde Ogunleye  
Zabi Qayumi  
Stephanie Ann Raridon  
Courtney Rogness  
Samantha Smith  
Ebony M. Veney  
Leonard Charles Wilson  
Natasha M. Wright  
Shelby Linn Yost  
Jonathon A. Zgainer  
Amy Allison Zimmerman

## **Hospitality Management**

---

Bailey Jordan Ahlberg  
Wendy Jo Hawkins  
Ashley Keiser

## **Leadership**

---

Naaman Younas Azad  
Richard Scott Crawford

## **Management of Human Resources**

---

Tadiwanashe Tiffany Brewer  
Jshone Engram  
Bea Boquiren Fernandez  
Aneesa Hassell  
Mayra Jacuinde  
Kayleigh Ann-Marie Lorentz  
Melissa Ruth Reece  
Valery K. Soto  
Kendyll St. Aubin  
Madelyn A. Torrey  
Xe Yang

## **Supply Chain and Logistics Management**

---

Jill Elizabeth Mack

## **Supply Chain, Transportation and Logistics Management**

---

Adrian Angel Bernardino  
James W. Arrasmith  
Abraham Bayus  
Almanetie F. Brown  
Dalton Buckner  
Chatina Michele Campbell  
Liliana Rocio Castillo Estevane  
Kayla Nicole Cordeiro  
Maritza Yamileth Esquivel

## Supply Chain, Transportation and Logistics Management *(cont.)*

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Christopher Todd Ficklen  
Oscar Alexander Galdamez  
Mario Roberto Garcia  
Kirsten N. Hall  
Erika Hong  
Brandon Gerrit Hough  
Samantha Marie Kranick  
Temitayo Odeyemi Lambo  
Christine Shanelle Mallory  
Immacula Mathurin  
Eric Randall McDonald  
Zachary Moore  
Brian E. Parker  
Holly L. Payne  
Nathan Sims  
Princess Amaya Vance  
James Marcus White  
Robert Williams

## Behavioral Science

---

Kiersten Marie Aichinger  
Christina M. Arellano  
Stephanie Renae Bianco  
Maggie Mae Brummond  
Helene G. Coberly  
Sara Cumbo  
Malindi Lou Gabelhouse  
Bennett Daniel Golden  
Yesenia Guevara  
Ava-Gail Harrison  
McKenzie Rose Higgins  
Amanda J. Hughes  
Abigail Renee Innis

Joseph Jackson  
Brandee Michelle Johnson  
Kathryn Elizabeth Link  
Alicia Marco  
Ro Montgomery  
Andrew Brian Pearson  
Karla Rodrigues  
Shukri Suleiman Said  
Urduja Sanchez  
Erandy A. Suarez-Lemus  
Zoe R. Sutherland  
Melynda Elaine Thomas  
Trenda L. Titsworth  
Beatriz S. Varela  
Alexandra A. Watson  
Jordan Jerrell Witherspoon  
Fa'aiuga Welford

## Child Protection and Juvenile Justice

---

Austyn Loree Parr

## Communication Studies

---

Emily Carroll Carroll  
Brianna Reed  
D'Andra Watson

## Education

---

Deion A. Brown  
Madison Jurgensmeier  
Savannah Kuiper  
Jacob W. Meade  
Kassidy F. Meade  
Phoenix Charmaine Len Negron  
Angelita Raquel Sada  
Joseph L. Tripp

## Health and Human Performance

---

Alison Butler  
Alexander William Jacobs  
Hunter Tylon Mengel

## History

---

Lorenzo N. Chaidez  
Savannah Kuiper  
Jordan Scott Pittmon  
Baileigh Elaine Rae

## Kinesiology

---

Jayna Kennedy Hope

## Psychology

---

Heranfel Eliu Ayala Pineiro  
Sherry L. Blue  
Katy Lee Christensen  
Kathrine Galloway  
Noela E. Hayes  
Skylar Marie Huff  
McKenna Mausbach  
Taylor Lee Anne McKern  
Alexa L. Thomas

## Business Management and Leadership

---

Yannick Frederic Maurice Allui  
Michelle K. Arehart  
Adriana Avila  
Rian Bee  
Martha C. Blake  
Kayla Nichole Calloway  
Trevor Carson  
Rhonda Creager  
Anquanett Kenyatta Cummings  
Angelina Paige Dickson

Zachery T. Dishong  
James Eugene Edwards Sr.  
Jameela L. El-Mohammed  
Arlene Evelyn Ezell  
Krystle M. Fawkes  
Samantha M. Fenrick  
Cheri N. Hadden  
Ashley Marie Hollenbeck  
Junior Joseph  
Donald R. Kendrick  
Colin Michael Kerrigan  
Cally A. Kilgore  
Kelly Kohler  
Celene Martinez  
Jacob Moore  
Megan Morales  
Maria Valeria Narvaez  
Emily R. Norris  
Ramiro Nunez  
Valerie Ojeda-Tirado  
Lucinda De Fatima Olson  
Armando Reyes  
Felix Reyes Jr.  
Mallory D. Scott  
Angela May Simmons  
Jordan Donald Smith  
Randy M. Smith  
Gabriel A. Soler  
Kelby Chyann Stockton  
Saira Itzayana Villalpando Lopez  
John Voskamp  
Ayden Welch  
Raquel Lynn Wright-Gates  
Johnny Joe Ybarra  
Kimberlie L. Zucco

### **Business Analysis and Management**

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Antoinette M. Beckley  
Mbeyu Rita Fusi  
Michelle Gomez  
Amanda Gornall  
Grant Goya  
Rachel Hackett  
Nathan P. Hauge  
T'Keyah Chenay Henry  
Shanekwa Johnston  
Phillip Tyler King  
Moctar Kone  
Ashli Elizabeth McCathern  
Donald Ryan Ranes  
Dewitt A. Steward Jr.  
Annie M. Turrubiate  
Amundsen Amoy Vang  
Brian Vazquez Hurtado  
Robert Williams

### **Business Analytics**

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Luz Griselda Roque

### **Computer Information Systems**

---

John R. Babbidge  
Joanna M. Baland  
Sandhya Dahal  
Randy Harry Easton Jr.  
Josiah Ellwein  
Arsene M. Lwamba  
Ndubuisi John Okeze  
Gerard L. Webb Jr.  
Mallorie Nicole White  
Michael Patrick White

### **Computer Science**

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Norman Cervantes  
Andrew Cole  
Abdullahi A. Farah  
Fernando Fabian Garcia  
Constance Smith  
Armel Venegda

### **Criminal Justice**

---

Claudia K. Adjepong  
Abigail Bladt  
Katy Lee Christensen  
Brooke L. Harlow  
Desarie R. Henry  
Amber Skye Liu  
Andrew Raymond Simmons

### **Cybersecurity**

---

Amro Alkaseasbeh  
Nicole M. Anderson  
Adam Bench  
Krystal Carter  
Justin A. Corriveau  
Dalton Crosby  
Thomas Phillips Dressler  
Michael Ford  
Pasarlay Khan  
Griffin Lynch  
Steven Gerhard Mueller  
Kevin M. Nyambariga  
Tara Bahadur Rai  
Jia L. Simpson  
Thene T. Thompson  
Shellean Rose Trejo  
Calvin Michael Wehr  
Jamali B. Wolfe

## Data Science

---

Mugtaba Yousif Ahmed Awad  
Maggie Colene Boles  
Lisa Moran Hansen  
Delilah Nicole Slabaugh

## Emergency Management

---

Kristy Garcia  
Jonathan Jay Reed

## Graphic Design

---

Dodji A. Assila  
Amelia LaDue  
Miles Ian Landaw  
Kathy Thi Nguyen  
Tatyana Primakov  
Makenzie Lee Talbott

## Health Science

---

Nikki Beuttel  
Makinzie Marie Gregory  
Abril Mendez  
Megan Mercado  
Essowe Patasse  
Danielle Rodriguez

## Information Technology

---

Noah Dwight Berry  
Cameron Brown  
Alan Hernandez Monzon  
Michael C. Kulsrud  
Justin Nguyen  
Joshua Michael Osburn  
Derek Talbott

## Intelligence and Security Studies

---

Fred W. Amazan  
Kimberlee Dunkel

## Legal Studies

---

Meghann McCreary Youngblood  
Justina R. Schmidt

## Management Information Systems

---

Paul Amos Barnes  
Nena A. Binyon Mohammed  
Jermane Dunn  
Toluali'i Gwen Lefiti  
Insey L. L. Sun  
Carter Joseph Vaughan  
Douglas Antonio Watson

## Nursing

---

Amanda Kay Burton  
Jennifer Gutierrez  
Harriet Mbongeh Mbeleka

## Project Management

---

Shelby Cook  
Devon Crocker  
Stephanie Doll  
Nyeshia T. Gray  
Shawn Hoover  
Angela Marie Huffman  
Kolby Ray Jones  
Gabriela Lopez  
Lana Majid  
Eileen Messer  
Christian Chase Sidener  
D'Andre Thomas  
Tiffany Vogman

## Software Development

---

Nilam Abdul-Haqq  
Yohannes Birru Ayele  
Irene Carrillo Jaramillo  
Truman Forey  
Jose Franco  
Arely Gil  
Tabari Lashod Harvey  
Tabark Mohamed Kambal  
Brian Patrick LeBow  
Ean Timothy Masoner  
Nima Memarzadeh  
Samir Eduardo Rodriguez Hernandez  
Alisa Nicole Steensen  
Darreon Tolen  
Mark Anthony White

## Sustainability Management

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Angela R. Kendall

## Web Development

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Exenreco Bell  
Devin F. Ledesma

# *Associate's Degrees*

## **Business**

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MeShayle Davis

Cassandra Richards

Iris R. White

## **Multidisciplinary Studies**

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Jessica Stanard

# Academic Attire

The regalia worn in American academic ceremonies today evolved from the everyday attire of students and faculty in universities of northern Europe during the Middle Ages. The square mortarboard is the most common head covering in the United States, originating from judicial caps and square bonnets worn by scholars at the University of Paris. Short gold tassels are representative of doctoral degrees.

*Colored tassels on the graduates' mortarboards are representative of their degrees.*

Tassel Color	Degree
Metallic Gold	Doctor of Philosophy
Drab	Doctor of Business Administration
White	Master of Arts
Drab	Master of Business Administration
Drab	Master of Project Management
Brown	Master of Fine Arts in Creativity
Salmon Pink	Master of Healthcare Administration
Gold	Master of Professional Administration
Peacock Blue	Master of Public Administration
Gold	Master of Science
Purple & Gold	Bachelor of Applied Science
Purple & Gold	Bachelor of Arts
Purple & Gold	Bachelor of Business Administration
Purple & Gold	Bachelor of Fine Arts
Purple & Gold	Bachelor of Science
Purple	Associate of Multidisciplinary Studies
Purple	Associate of Business

# Academic Attire (cont.)

Red, white, and blue military service recognition cords are worn by graduates, Board of Directors, faculty members, and other distinguished guests who are military veterans or currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Purple cords are worn by student-athletes.

*Colored cords are worn by the Bachelor's and Associate's Degree candidates who have achieved academic honors.*

## Bachelor Honors Distinction

Cord Color	Academic Honor	GPA
Red	Summa Cum Laude	3.95 to 4.00
Gold	Magna Cum Laude	3.88 to 3.94
Green	Cum Laude	3.76 to 3.87
White	With Distinction	3.60 to 3.75

*\*60 credit hours in-residence*

## Associate Honors Distinction

Cord Color	Academic Honor	GPA
Royal	Highest Honor	3.95 to 4.00
Charcoal	High Honor	3.76 to 3.94
Violet	Honors	3.60 to 3.75

*\*30 credit hours in-residence*

# Alumni

## A Message to the Class of 2026

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When you graduate from Bellevue University, you join a community of more than 70,000 alumni worldwide. The Bellevue University Alumni Office is dedicated to staying connected with you as you move forward through life. After your degree is officially conferred, you can access and print your alumni identification card from your BRUIN account under My BRUIN. Please help us stay in touch by letting us know if you move or change your name, phone number or email address.

You can submit updates by contacting the alumni office at [alumni@bellevue.edu](mailto:alumni@bellevue.edu).

*As a member of the Bellevue University Class of 2026,  
you are entitled to the following:*

### Services

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You receive free lifetime access to your [my365.bellevue.edu](mailto:my365.bellevue.edu) email address, access to Bellevue University's extensive library databases and services, career assistance, and free admission to regular season home athletic events.

### Communications

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You will receive the University's electronic newsletter, the AlumniLink, and access to the University's digital magazine, The View. You can also network and interact with other alumni and the University on social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

### Waivers and Discounts

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Alumni receive a 50 percent tuition discount on selected undergraduate classes, up to six credit hours per academic year. (Note: The discount is not available for accelerated classes/programs, minors in accelerated programs, or independent study.) And, application fees for graduate programs at the University are waived for alumni, at the time the application is submitted.

### Involvement

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Alumni can become involved by making Bellevue University a priority in their charitable giving. We hope you join countless other BU alumni in making an impact for current students by considering an annual charitable contribution. Also, please let us know your interests and suggestions by using the Alumni Interest Survey located on the website.



*Now that you're a graduate, wear your Bellevue University lapel pin proudly.*

*Congratulations!*

Bellevue University Alumni Office  
1000 Galvin Road South  
Bellevue, NE 68005

Phone: 402-557-7293

Toll-free: 800-756-7920, ext. 557-7293

Email: [alumni@bellevue.edu](mailto:alumni@bellevue.edu)

Website: [www.bellevue.edu/about/alumni/](http://www.bellevue.edu/about/alumni/)

# *Bellevue University Board of Directors*

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U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts

# *Full-Time Faculty*

Dr. Susan Alford  
Prof. Greg Allen  
Dr. Joseph Anson  
Dr. Gregory Ashley  
Dr. Darrell Aubrey  
Prof. Michelle Bahr  
Prof. Rebecca Barnes  
Prof. Brian Barney  
Prof. Charles Benish  
Dr. Chris Bergeron  
Prof. Kimberly Brehm  
Dr. Kyle Brezinski  
Prof. Ronald Brouwer  
Dr. Marcia Brown  
Prof. Kent Burkholder  
Dr. Julia Burns  
Prof. Mike Butera  
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Dr. Anthony Clarke  
Dr. Candida Contantine-Castillo  
Dr. Julia Cronin-Gilmore  
Dr. Barbara Daubenspeck  
Prof. Heidi Deden  
Dr. Joshua Edwards  
Dr. Kristin Erickson

Dr. Kristina Faimon  
Dr. Jason Ferguson  
Dr. Robert Flowers  
Dr. Mike Freel  
Dr. Richard Galusha  
Dr. Avis Garcia  
Prof. JoDee Goracke  
Dr. Ularisi Green-Baker  
Dr. Patricia Gula-Diaz  
Dr. Inhyun Han  
Prof. Bob Hankin  
Dr. Irene Harper  
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Prof. Taylor Hughes  
Prof. Eric Jackson  
Dr. LaNita Jefferson  
Dr. Kate (Mary Katherine) Joeckel  
Prof. Heather Ann Johnson  
Prof. M. Merrill Johnson  
Dr. Trinity Johnson  
Dr. Jon Kayne  
Prof. Cassandra Koester  
Dr. James Korcuska  
Prof. Jason Kramer  
Prof. Richard Krasso  
Dr. John Kyndt  
Prof. Gloria Lessmann  
Dr. Jerome Lewis  
Dr. Stephen Linenberger

Prof. Angela Longe  
Prof. Esther Lustig  
Dr. Shawnee Mansfield  
Prof. James Marcuzzo  
Prof. Leo Mayhan  
Prof. Sue McDaniel  
Dr. Erin J. McDonnell-Jones  
Prof. Monica McElhaney  
Prof. Rick McFayden  
Dr. Lisa McKee  
Dr. Brenda Mechels  
Prof. Kara Meisinger  
Dr. Laurel Mitchell  
Prof. Leslie Murrell  
Prof. Frank Neugebauer  
Prof. Patrick Nieland  
Prof. Cynthia Nye  
Prof. Vincent Painter  
Dr. Dishant Pandya  
Prof. John Patterson  
Prof. Darrell Payne  
Dr. Rick Pennington  
Dr. Raffaella Peter  
Dr. Nikki Pierce  
Dr. T. Scott Pinkerton  
Dr. Paul Poppler  
Dr. Emad Rahim  
Prof. Douglas Rausch  
Prof. Amber Ritzman

## *Full-Time Faculty (cont.)*

Dr. Marissa Rolerson

Prof. Scott Roth

Dr. Amy Runcorn

Dr. Michael Russell

Prof. Sue Sampson

Dr. Brandi Sawyer

Prof. Michaela Schaben

Prof. Cassandra Schroeder

Dr. Adriana Seagle

Dr. Katherine Shirley

Dr. Leroy Simpson

Prof. Margaret Smith

Prof. Judi Steinig

Prof. Gary Stessman

Prof. Mark Stevens

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Dr. Terissa Upchurch-Butler

Dr. Cassandra Torres

Dr. Chamith Wasage

Prof. Georgia Welch Cronin

Dr. Brett Werner

Prof. Amy West

Prof. Catherine Williams

Prof. Daryl Williams

Dr. Nick Wolff

Prof. Erica Wright

Dr. Carolyn Youssef-Morgan

Dr. Randa Zalman

Dr. Shawna Ziegler

# Commencement Photography

Ceremony Photos is pleased to provide this complimentary service to each graduate who crosses the dais during the commencement ceremony.

Please visit <https://www.ceremonyphotos.com/events-proofs> to view the commencement photographs.

All ceremony participants will receive an email and link to view their proofs taken during the commencement ceremony and events. There is no obligation to purchase.

Any questions about commencement photography can be addressed to [service@ceremonyphotos.com](mailto:service@ceremonyphotos.com).

This event is being photographed and filmed on behalf of Bellevue University for possible inclusion in marketing and promotional communications.

Please be advised that Bellevue University may use photographs and/or recordings taken during events for publication in print and online, including social media. If you do not wish to be photographed or recorded, we ask that you please leave the location during photography or filming.

By entering this event and by your presence here, you are hereby giving your consent to be photographed, filmed and/or recorded for Bellevue University's use in any and all media of your appearance, name, likeness, voice and/or statements recorded at this event for any purpose whatsoever in perpetuity, including, by way of example only, use on websites, in social media, news, and advertising.

*If you do not agree to this consent, please do not enter the event premises.*

Questions? Email [publicrelations@bellevue.edu](mailto:publicrelations@bellevue.edu).

# *Graduation is a Social Celebration!*

Follow @BellevueUniversity on Instagram and LinkedIn.  
Use the hashtags #BUGrad2026 and #BUGrads2026 in your posts.

**Congratulations!**

This program is not an official graduation list. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy in this commencement program, printing deadlines can prevent inclusion of candidates names, or may result in the use of names of persons not completing graduation requirements. All honors indicated in this program are tentative.

Official degree honors for diplomas and transcripts will be determined after final grades are reported. This printed program, therefore, should not be used to determine a student's academic or degree status.



## *Online Viewing Information*

Bellevue University will stream the Commencement Ceremony live on Saturday, January 31, 2026, beginning at 8:30 a.m. (CT). Guests who are unable to attend in person can still watch their graduate cross the stage.

To view the live ceremony, visit Bellevue.edu and click the banner at the top of the homepage.

The ceremony will be recorded and available on Bellevue University's YouTube channel a few weeks after the event.

<https://www.youtube.com/@bellevueuniversity>

# *Thank You*

Special thanks to all those who volunteered their time, talent, and energy to make this graduation ceremony a success. The entire Bellevue University community, particularly our graduates and their families, greatly appreciate your dedication and hard work.



Bellevue University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission ([hlcommission.org](http://hlcommission.org)). Bellevue University is committed to providing an environment that is free from harassment and discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, military obligations, or status in any other group protected by local, state, or federal law. Bellevue University, 1000 Galvin Road South, Bellevue, NE 68005.

