



WINTER COMMENCEMENT

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE
DECEMBER 13, 2024
Chicoine Center

The background of the image shows three tall silver flagpoles. The central pole has a large American flag at the top. To its left is a smaller blue flag, and to its right is a red flag with a white circular emblem. The flagpoles are set against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. In the foreground, there are green evergreen trees and some deciduous trees with yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The base of the flagpoles is surrounded by a low brick wall and some shrubs.

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

Winter Commencement

Friday, December 13, 2024 | 2 p.m. | Chicoine Center

*Pomp and Circumstance.....	Edward Elgar <i>Arr. by James Ployhar</i> <i>Performed by the Chadron State College Wind Symphony</i> <i>Directed by Dr. John Wojcik, Professor of Music</i>
*Posting of Colors	Chadron American Legion
*Star Spangled Banner	Arr. by Dr. Sidney Shuler <i>Performed by the CSC Wind Symphony</i>
*Pledge of Allegiance	Frances Bellamy
Opening Remarks	Dr. Paul Turman <i>Chancellor of the Nebraska State College System</i>
Moment of Reflection	Alyssa Grace Springer <i>Bachelor of Science in Education Degree Candidate</i>
Welcome	Dr. Paul Turman Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly <i>Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
Greetings	Mr. Danny Reynaga <i>Student Affairs Committee Chair, Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees</i>
Introduction of Speaker	Dr. Paul Turman
Message to the Graduating Class	Mr. Brandon Hall <i>Principal, Deer Creek Middle School and former Marine</i>
Presentation of Graduate Class of 2024	Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly
Conferral of Degrees	Dr. Paul Turman
Hooding	Faculty Advisors Assisted by: Dr. James Margetts, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts Dr. Ryan Morgan, Dean of Graduate Studies and the School of Business, Mathematics, and Science Dr. Brittany Helmbrecht, Interim Dean of the School of Professional Studies and Applied Sciences
Recognition of Honor Graduates	Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly
Presentation of the Undergraduate Class of 2024	Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly
Conferral of Degrees	Dr. Paul Turman
Closing Remarks	Dr. Paul Turman
Moment of Reflection	Mr. Harley Rhoades <i>Master of Science in Organizational Management Degree Recipient</i>
*Fanfare and Recessional	Dr. Michael Stephens <i>Performed by the CSC Wind Symphony</i>

*Please stand

Commencement Speaker



Brandon Hall is an educator and Marine. He believes in serving his community through personal accountability, relational trust, and moral purpose.

Brandon is currently the Principal of Deer Creek Middle School in Jefferson County Public Schools, Colorado. Brandon is a lifelong learner who started his journey as an educator in 2002 teaching High School Social Studies. In 2010, Brandon graduated from the University of Colorado Denver with an MA in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, as well as his Principal Licensure. As a school administrator and Principal, he has had the privilege of serving multiple school communities and learners in all grades K-12.

As a Marine, Brandon entered Basic Training in 2001. After completion of all required training, he served in the Marine Corps Reserve as a Logistician, Civil Affairs Noncommissioned Officer, Section Chief, Civil Affairs Team Chief, First Sergeant, and Sergeant Major. Brandon retired in 2023 as the Battalion Sergeant Major for 5th Battalion 14th Marines. Brandon deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and once in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.

Brandon and Stephany have 2 adult children and a daughter in high school. He cherishes every moment he can spend with his family. Brandon is an avid adventurer and enjoys skiing in the Winter and Mountaineering whenever possible.

Candidates for Graduate Degrees

Master of Arts in Education

Sarah Aid Winner, South Dakota
Abigail Bever Cheyenne, Wyoming
Warren Sherlock Cross Sr. Oglala, South Dakota
Mathew Kale Davis Alliance, Nebraska
Logan Charles Douglas Ogallala, Nebraska
Emily Rae Jackman Ainsworth, Nebraska
Amanda Stillings Kuipers Anchorage, Alaska
Madison Lang Cook, Nebraska
Marie Glyness Larson Anchorage, Alaska
Margaret Marie Opal Louthan Elwood, Nebraska
Ashlyn Rae Lube Cairo, Nebraska
Melissa Van Dyke Mitchell South Jordan, Utah
Jeromy P. Naslund (posthumous) Denver, Colorado
Melody Norris Torrington, Wyoming
Brooke Ellen Petersen Martin, South Dakota
Julia A. Raben Whitney, Nebraska
Leanna Frances Rangitsch Saratoga, Wyoming
Frances Romero Thomas Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Malorie Schefcik Alliance, Nebraska
Stacy Lynn Shaffer Willow, Alaska
Richard Alan Shoop II. Centerburg, Ohio
Avery Swisher Halsey, Nebraska
Victoria Lynne Terzian Fayetteville, North Carolina
Cynthia Thomas Omaha, Nebraska
Bailey Winstead Douglas, Wyoming
Jenna Lynn Yusella Marion, South Dakota
Maureen Theresa van Wagner Anchorage, Alaska

Master of Business Administration

Lena Sani Aslan Elizabeth, Colorado
Jennifer Rae Bernth Grand Island, Nebraska
Michele Carter Douglas, Wyoming
Jake Raymond Duda Deadwood, South Dakota
Kristen Elizabeth Gerking North Platte, Nebraska
Sidney Michelle Hines Limon, Colorado
Kay Marie Kolbo Gothenburg, Nebraska
Craig Krentz Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Alexander James Lund Sidney, Nebraska
Desteny Misegadis Sidney, Nebraska
Lesley Ann Rowbal Pine Bluffs, Wyoming
Ali Sassi Jacksonville, Florida
Justin T. Woody Cleveland, Ohio

Master of Education

Cassandra D. Brotzman Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Lacey Danyelle Gojkovich Gillette, Wyoming
Alexis Helenbolt Douglas, Wyoming
Nickolas Kerkvliet Douglas, Wyoming
Amanda Shae Kroeger Ogallala, Nebraska
Patrick Shannon Lehn Douglas, Wyoming
Justen Earl McConnell Chadron, Nebraska
Bradley E. Norris Gordon, Nebraska
Teresa Schmidt Campbell, Nebraska
Jessica L. Stallard Sealy, Texas
Charlotte Urbauer Plattsmouth, Nebraska

Master of Science in Organizational Management

Rachel B. Crook Talmage, Nebraska
Alexia May Hurtado Aurora, Colorado
Brooke M. Kramer Aurora, Colorado
Harley William Rhoades Douglas, Wyoming
Darrian Charles Stickney Colorado Springs, Colorado
Emanuel Thompson Aurora, Colorado
Cole R. Thurness Rapid City, South Dakota

Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Applied Science

Matthew James Coleman-Dunson Casco, Michigan
cum laude

Bachelor of Arts

Dante Robert Aleman Torrington, Wyoming

Katrina Faith Beel Johnstown, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Madelyn Marie Bird McCook, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Aerial Bochmann Smithwick, South Dakota
summa cum laude

Thea L. Boerkircher Hemingford, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Bethani McKenzie Bohlmann Cheyenne, Wyoming

Alexis Ann Bowlin Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Ashley Emri Burrows Hay Springs, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Joseph Collins Christensen Hayward, California

Savanna Jo Dudley Rapid City, South Dakota
summa cum laude

Brodie Jeffery Eisenbraun Sturgis, South Dakota
summa cum laude

Colin R Erickson Delta, Colorado

Evan Michael Figueroa Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Tehya Maree From Bridgeport, Nebraska
cum laude

Alexis Deanna Funk Mitchell, Nebraska

Jade Alyssa Garcia Gering, Nebraska

Brittany Ann Garrison Jacob Sheridan, Wyoming
cum laude

Elizabeth Morgan Garza Lincoln, Nebraska

Asia Rain Graham Newcastle, Wyoming
cum laude

McKenna Belle Gurney Burwell, Nebraska

Zane R. Harris Gordon, Nebraska

Jackson Thomas Hesford Cheyenne, Wyoming
cum laude

MeiLisha Chyna Hou North Platte, Nebraska

Alicia N. Howe Richmond, Ohio

Karsyn Michaela Huck Sidney, Nebraska

Hailey M. Jensen Custer, South Dakota
summa cum laude

Haleyanna Marie Krohn Fort Collins, Colorado
cum laude

Alec Andrew Langan McCook, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Aubrey Ann Larson Chadron, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Rozalyn Lawrence Chicago, Illinois

Destiny Adelia Lerma Scottsbluff, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Taylor G. Lindstrom Rapid City, South Dakota

Adam Zachary Lynch Broomfield, Colorado

Hannah Elizabeth Martian Rapid City, South Dakota
summa cum laude

Malik William Elisha Mashek Excelsior, Minnesota

Nyah Elizabeth Maxon Rapid City, South Dakota
cum laude

Patrick Julian Taylor McLachlan Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Jordan Taylor McPeak Ogallala, Nebraska

Autumn Mary Lou Kay Mills Newcastle, Wyoming
magna cum laude

Terrance Dean Mokeac Jr. Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Jennifer Page-Jensen Lenoir City, Tennessee
cum laude

Jerad W. Phillips Wallace, Nebraska

Kayla L. Prai Lincoln, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Destiny Rose Rundquist North Platte, Nebraska

Adam Scanlan Gering, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Zachary Robert Shaw Jr. Omaha, Nebraska

Ryan J. Sparrow Brighton, Colorado

Kennady Marie Stack Chadron, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Haley Steskal North Bend, Washington

Adam Scot Stone Chadron, Nebraska

Matthew Payton Strong Chadron, Nebraska

Dylan Michael Sward Alliance, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Elizabeth Anne Swayze Sidney, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Jarrett Taylor Castleberry, Alabama

Ashley Marie Tolstedt North Platte, Nebraska
cum laude

Jonathan Marc Vahrenkamp Chadron, Nebraska

Willow JoAnn Williamson Salt Lake City, Utah

Maddison Wright Rawlins, Wyoming
magna cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Peter Walter Krohn Fort Collins, Colorado
magna cum laude

Mariah Jo Markus Loup City, Nebraska

Sutton James Pohlman Stanton, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Bimal K. Sah Dhalkebar, Dhanusha, Nepal

Candidates for Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Education

Brandi A. Bowder O'Neill, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Kodie L. Bruns Bayard, Nebraska

Dakota Leigh Caldarelli Omaha, Nebraska

Rebekah Grace Carlson Sidney, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Megan Elizabeth Cawley Bayard, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Carissa Cornelius Madrid, Nebraska

Katherine Jo Cunningham Miller, Nebraska

Amanda Lea Davis Hyannis, Nebraska

AnnMarie Dallys DeMaranville Cody, Wyoming

Colby Elliott Gering, Nebraska

Tiana Marie Gahm Hitchcock, South Dakota
cum laude

Payton R. Gorwill Hyannis, Nebraska

Rhianna Marie Hagerbaumer Nickerson, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Melissa Haswell Plattsmouth, Nebraska
magna cum laude

Macy Lynn Homan Valentine, Nebraska

Stephanie C. Humpherys North Platte, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Alexandra Hutto Montrose, Colorado
summa cum laude

Kelsey Jacobs Sheridan, Wyoming
summa cum laude

Zachary Mark Kapushion Erie, Colorado

Michelle Elaine Merlino Guernsey, Wyoming
summa cum laude

Jessica Myers Alliance, Nebraska

Aspen Rain Nepper North Platte, Nebraska

Adrienne Nicole Olson Oshkosh, Nebraska

Cathy Prentiss New Brighton, Minnesota
magna cum laude

Jayden Claire Ralston Bridgeport, Nebraska

Carter John Rohrich Pierce, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Mary Evelyn Roxbury Lincoln, Nebraska

Emma June Schneider Chappell, Nebraska

Kelsey A. Sindt Riverton, Nebraska
cum laude

Alyssa Grace Springer Indianola, Nebraska
summa cum laude

Eric Edward Storm Curtis, Nebraska

Clifford F. Swank Yoder, Wyoming

Mataya Lynn Topil Lincoln, Nebraska

Ethan R. Tussing New Underwood, South Dakota
summa cum laude

Nathaniel Michael Umbarger Wasilla, Alaska

Taylor Rae Walker Glenrock, Wyoming

Haylee Rae Weyers-Boldt Sterling, Nebraska

Christina Marie White Palmer, Alaska
summa cum laude

Danielle Woods Chadron, 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 fall 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!



Congratulations on your remarkable achievement! As you embark on this exciting new chapter, the Chadron State Alumni & Foundation Office warmly welcomes you to our vibrant alumni community. You are now a part of a network united by shared experiences at Chadron State, and we are proud to have you as a part of our family.

The Chadron State Alumni & Foundation Office is your lifelong connection to CSC. As you go about your journey as a CSC alum, please keep us updated on your successes and changes to your contact information so we can celebrate your accomplishments, invite you to alumni events in your area, and share opportunities for you to visit. You are always welcome on the CSC campus. When the phone rings, and it's from CSC, please answer!

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 band 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-



“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 used sandblasting and acid to accelerate the rusting process and its associated colors.

