



**National
University**
Of Health Sciences

**College of Professional Studies
and
College of Allied Health Sciences
& Distance Education
Commencement Ceremony**



**Friday
The Fifteenth of August
Two-Thousand and Twenty-Five**

*Earl G. Liss Auditorium
Lombard, Illinois*

Because:

- **We value students** as unique individuals seeking quality health sciences education through our service and support;
- **We value being progressive**, knowledgeable, adaptable, original, and academically sound in our academic programs;
- **We value the substantive quality of our curricula** through emphasis upon academic excellence;
- **We value progress** achieved by the development of new knowledge and its importance to chiropractic medicine and other complementary healing arts and sciences;
- **We value quality** training and practice in the clinical skills of all relevant programs with particular emphasis upon the physician/patient relationship within the first professional programs;
- **We value complementary and alternative care** for its emphasis upon holism and use of the least invasive therapeutic procedures necessary for optimizing human health;
- **We value collegiality and cooperation** among all members of the University community, the related professions, other health care systems, and the community;

Therefore:

The mission of National University of Health Sciences is to provide and promote the necessary leadership, management, and resources for the advancement of education, new knowledge, cultural awareness in healthcare education, outreach, and the ethical practice of the healing arts and sciences as taught within the programs of this university.

■ **PROGRAM** ■

Processional Pomp and Circumstance
March #1 - Elgar

Master of Ceremonies Daniel R. Driscoll, DC
Dean of Institutional Compliance

National Anthem Star Spangled Banner
Francis Scott Key

Presentation of Colors Aaron Juarez, Jenna Jean Stein
Junior Marshals

**Introduction of
Commencement Speaker** Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC
President

**Commencement
Address** The Honorable Representative Terra Costa Howard
42nd District

Joseph Janse Award Candace Passi, MS, EdD, PhD
Dean of the College of Professional Studies, Illinois Site

Awarding of Academic Honors Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences

Valedictory Address Madeline McGrane
Valedictorian

Presentation of Candidates Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC
Vice President for Academic Services

**Conferral of Bachelor
of Science Degree** Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

Administration of the Integrative Health Professions Oath
College of Professional Studies Candace Passi, MS, EdD, PhD

■ **PROGRAM** ■

Doctor of Acupuncture Degree

Presentation of Candidates Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC

**Conferral of Doctor of
Acupuncture Degree** Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

Chiropractic Medicine Degree

Valedictory Address Savannah Rae Ewing & Michaela Noelle Slater
Co-Valedictorians

Presentation of Candidates Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC

**Conferral of Doctor of
Chiropractic Degree** Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

Naturopathic Medicine Degree

Valedictory Address Kelsey Kussro
Valedictorian

Presentation of Candidates Randy L. Swenson, MHPE, DC

**Conferral of Doctor of
Naturopathic Medicine Degree** Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

President's Final Remarks Joseph P.D. Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC

Benediction Daniel R. Driscoll, DC

Recessional Trumpet Time
Purcell

AUGUST 2025 GRADUATES

**GRADUATES OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM**

Aimee Arceo[●] Michigan
 Felicia Lee Bellinger[●] Illinois
 Kira Klapprodt Illinois
 Madeline McGrane^{●†} Illinois
 Sabrina Tossing^{●❖} Illinois
 Shannon M. Wall New York

**GRADUATES OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE PROGRAM**

Angel R. Gonzalez Duran Florida
 Addison Ozakyol New Mexico

**GRADUATES OF THE
DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM**

Reecha S. Patel Illinois
 Sobhana Vasan Illinois

Receipt of the degree for those listed as August 2025 graduates
 is contingent upon completion of applicable requirements.

[†]valedictorian ❖ salutatorian

[●]summa cum laude ★magna cum laude ◆cum laude

AUGUST 2025 GRADUATES

**GRADUATES OF THE
CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE PROGRAM**

Luke Aguirre Illinois
 Denise Katherine Dandino Florida
 Savannah Rae Ewing^{●†} Florida
 Madison Lilley Missouri
 Jacqueline Lord Wisconsin
 Eric Nalbandian Connecticut
 Brianna Loray Nelson Virginia
 Andrea Nichole Orleanski[◆] Florida
 Shah-Zeb Raja Illinois
 George Rodis Illinois
 Rosabelys Rodriguez[◆] Florida
 Tonya Singleton West Virginia
 Michaela Noelle Slater^{●†} Michigan
 Kelby Robert Steiner Illinois
 Alejandro Toledo Illinois
 John Van Dam Florida
 Chao Wang Florida
 Brandon Wilkes II Missouri

AUGUST 2025 GRADUATES

GRADUATES OF THE NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE PROGRAM

Marissa Campos^{★◆}Illinois
 Kaleah Duval.....New York
 Leah Gusching..... Ohio
 Faiyza Jeelani.....Illinois
 Kelsey Kussro^{●†} Michigan
 Lauren Lunder Michigan
 Jorge Luis Morales Cardona..... Puerto Rico
 Edgelyn Ledgeta Quanon..... Liberia
 Ellianna McCarthy Sternberg[★]Illinois

SCHOLASTIC HONORS

Summa Cum LaudeAimee Arceo
 Felicia Lee Bellinger
 Savannah Rae Ewing
 Kelsey Kussro
 Madeline McGrane
 Michaela Noelle Slater
 Sabrina Tossing

Magna Cum LaudeMarissa Campos
 Ellianna McCarthy Sternberg

Cum LaudeAndrea Nichole Orleanski
 Rosabelys Rodriguez

Receipt of the degree for those listed as August 2025 graduates
 is contingent upon completion of applicable requirements.

[†]valedictorian ◆ salutatorian

● summa cum laude ★ magna cum laude ◆ cum laude



The Honorable Representative Terra Costa Howard

42nd District

State Representative Terra Costa Howard is a lawyer, small business owner, wife, mother, and tireless advocate for children and people in need.

After earning a B.A. in political science and speech communications at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1993 and a law degree at DePaul University in 1996, Costa Howard started her legal career as a staff attorney at the DuPage County 18th Judicial Circuit Court. There she saw firsthand how tough it can be for everyday people to navigate the complexities of our court system.

After two years, Costa Howard joined the DuPage County Public Defender's Office, where she represented children and parents living in poverty. She proved herself to be a fierce and determined champion, standing up for vulnerable people and speaking out on behalf of her clients and their families.

In 2003, Costa Howard opened her own legal practice, where she continues to fight for the rights of children, elderly people, people with disabilities, and families caught in custody and visitation disputes.

As a member of the Illinois House since 2019, Costa Howard has been a strong voice for victims and survivors of trafficking. She led the passage of a new Illinois law that requires training for hotel and motel staff, to help them recognize and report suspected cases to the proper authorities. She also passed important new protections for Illinois survivors of domestic violence and stalking.

She has worked hard to provide new protections for Illinois seniors. She led the bipartisan passage of SB 69, which created tough new penalties for criminal abuse and neglect, identity theft, and financial exploitation of seniors and individuals with disabilities. She also passed HB 2643, which protects seniors who are pressured into signing contracts by unscrupulous door-to-door salespeople and home repair scammers.

Now in her fourth term in the General Assembly, Costa Howard represents the 42nd House District, which includes Lombard, Glen Ellyn, and parts of Wheaton, Downers Grove, Lisle, and Naperville. She serves as Chair of the House Human Services Committee and Vice Chair of the Adoption & Child Welfare Committee.

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THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

The academic costume or regalia worn by the faculty and graduates in NUHS ceremonies originated in medieval Europe. The gown was originally an outer robe worn by scholars. The academic regalia can vary from institution to institution. In the United States, a more unified code began to be recognized in the late 1900's. This codified approach was meant to help identify what school or institution a scholar graduated from and their discipline of study.

Robes that graduates wear will signify their academic degree. The doctoral degree is unique in that it features velvet trim including three velvet chevrons on each sleeve. A master's degree is conveyed through black robes with long trailing sleeves. Bachelor's and certificate degrees both have traditional bell-shaped long sleeves.

The hood was once a real hood, but today's hoods are purely ornamental. All hoods have a black base and are lined with the school colors (National University of Health Sciences' are maroon and goldenrod), and are trimmed in the colors of the discipline in which the degree is being granted. Green is the color of medicine, and this is the most common color you will see at an NUHS graduation. Other colors you may notice are dark blue, indicating a degree in the sciences; light blue, for education; and lemon, for library science. The length of the hood itself is also indicative of the level of degree earned, with doctorate level hoods being longer than those of the master's degree hoods.

Non-tenured faculty and graduates wear four-sided mortar board caps as they are not informative as to the highest degree earned. However, those having earned the doctoral degree don a gold tassel atop the mortar board caps. As is tradition, members of our esteemed faculty that have achieved tenure at the University and members of the administration are afforded the opportunity to wear tams.

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OATH

I solemnly pledge before God and these witnesses to consecrate my life to the service of humanity;

I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude that is their due;

I will apply the art and science of my discipline with compassion, personal accountability, professionalism, and respect for the people I am privileged to serve;

The health of my patient will be my first consideration;

I will respect the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;

I will maintain by all means in my power, the honor, and the noble traditions of the healing professions;

My colleagues will be my sisters and brothers;

I will uphold my duty to honor the doctor/patient relationship, ensuring unbiased patient care regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, education, ideology, or any other personal characteristic;

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life and always remember to "First, Do No Harm";

I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity, even under threat;

I make these promises solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

■ **STAR SPANGLED BANNER** ■

O*h, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,*

W*hat so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?*

W*hose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,*

O*'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?*

A*nd the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,*

G*ave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.*

O *say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave*

O*'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

