



*Spring*  
**2025**

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**Commencement**

*St. Joseph, Missouri*



# 2025 Spring Commencement Exercise

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*Missouri Western State University*

**11:00 a.m.**

*College of Science and Health*

**3:00 p.m.**

*Division of Academic Affairs*

*College of Business and Professional Studies*

*College of Liberal Arts*

**May 10, 2025**

**Looney Arena**

**Missouri Western State University**

**Saint Joseph, MO**

*Today's commencement is an occasion to celebrate, but it is also a formal ceremony.*

*Please do not use air horns, mechanical devices or any type of noisemaker during the commencement ceremony. Thank you for respecting your graduate and all other graduates on this important occasion.*

# COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

May 10, 2025

## Processional

*Pomp and Circumstance*

Music by Edward Elgar

Missouri Western Symphonic Winds

Dr. Lee Harrelson, Director

## National Anthem

*The Star-Spangled Banner*

Music by John Stafford Smith

Words by Francis Scott Key

Missouri Western Symphonic Winds

Miss Dein Gentry, School of Fine Arts

## Introduction of Special Guests

Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy

President

## Introduction of Commencement Speaker

Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy

President

## Commencement Address

Mr. Tim Houlne '86

Entrepreneur, Author  
and CEO, Humach

## Introduction of Student Representative

Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy

President

## Student Representative Address

11 a.m.: Ms. Viola Julius Toma

3 p.m.: Miss Kendra Marie Simpson  
Spring '25 Graduates

## Acknowledgements/Recognitions

Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy

President

**Presentation of Masters and  
Undergraduate Degree Candidates**

Dr. Jay Johnson  
Provost and Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

**Conferring of Degrees**

Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy  
President

**Graduate Hooding and  
Announcement of Degree Candidates**

Dr. Jay Johnson and  
Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy

**Alumni Association Welcome**

Ms. Janice Wallace '98  
President, Alumni Association

**Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy  
President

**Missouri Western Alma Mater**  
Words by Daryl McDermott  
Music by Michael Mathews

Missouri Western Symphonic Winds  
Miss Dein Gentry, Vocalist  
School of Fine Arts

**Recessional**  
*Crown Imperial*  
Music by William Walton

Missouri Western Symphonic Winds  
Dr. Lee Harrelson, Director

***Following the Missouri Western Alma Mater, the audience will be seated and  
will remain seated during the Recessional.***

The MWSU Alumni Association will be hosting a Graduate Reception  
in the small gymnasium for all graduates and their families  
immediately following the ceremony.

**Missouri Western State University**  
*Board of Governors*

Mr. Lee Tieman, *Chair*  
Mr. Bill Grimwood, *Vice Chair*

Mr. Scott Albers  
Mr. Dan Danford '78  
Mr. Todd Michalski '92  
Mrs. Lisa Norton  
Mr. Bill Severn  
Mr. Garrett Jackson, *Student Governor*

**Missouri Western State University**  
*Administration*

Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy  
*President*

Dr. Jay Johnson  
*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Mr. Daniel Holt  
*Vice President for Finance and Administration*

Mr. Marc Archambault  
*Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director for  
the Missouri Western State University Foundation*

Ms. Kelli Douglas  
*Vice President and General Counsel*

Mr. Andrew Carter  
*Director of Athletics*

Dr. Andy Otto  
*Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing*

Ms. Suzanne Kissock  
*Interim Dean, College of Business and Professional Studies*

Dr. Joel Hyer  
*Dean, College of Liberal Arts*

Dr. Joan Brewer  
*Dean, College of Science and Health*

***Candidates for Graduation***  
***Graduate School***  
***11:00 a.m. Ceremony***

**MASTER OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

***Sport and Fitness Management***

Micah Baird  
Isabella Areli Ramirez  
Jazmine Monae Servance

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

***Health Care Leadership***

Madison Tresa Nash

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING  
AND MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

***Health Care Leadership and General Business***

Jaileigh Johnson

**MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK**

***Social Work***

Alexandria Renee Arrasmith  
Rose Clare Cadden  
Miguel A. Cruz Mirabal  
Ian Christopher Endres  
Ashley Evans  
Stefanie Karen Nold  
Megan Elizabeth Phillips  
Megan Elaine Kayla Don Sayers  
Lenora Rose Stearns  
Theresa Anne Sullivan  
Brandi Williams  
Brooklynn Marie Wright

# *Candidates for Graduation*

## *Undergraduate Degrees*

### *11:00 a.m. Ceremony*

## *College of Science and Health*

Victoria Renee Cline

*B.S., Biochemistry/Molecular Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

*B.S., Biology*

John C. Anthony

Ashtyn Paige Danner

Brooklynn Edwards

Emily Gipson

Aaron Patrick King

Keeley Jane Kroonenberg

Hanna Moore\*\*

Lillian Abigail Morrison

Callie Punzo\*\*

Katelynn Rose Rowland\*\*

Alexiss Marie Sullivan

Clareece Renee Taylor

Viola Julius Toma

Hannah Nicole Wagner

Michelle Dannielle Williams

Keegan Alexander Eugene Yancey

Grace Victoria Allen

Walter Philip Bicklein

Sam Ali Gazi

Zachary Alan Hendrickson

Ethan Andrew Hoerr

Thomas Joseph Murphy

Jaeden Kristoffer Scott Sears

Autumn L. Shull

Mackinley Gordon Sorrells

Weston Thomas Henning

Brayden Michael Johnson

Kyle D. Roller

Matilda Söderlund

Aneesha Yasmine Abdul-Hameed

Nader Abdessatar Ammar

Josh Collier\*\*

William Clayton Andrew Judkins

Nicole Domini Perkins

Wyatt Joseph Wuerfele

Matthew Nunez

Jonathan Henry Bottorff

Malgorzata Anna Byczkowska

Alahana Kuwai Cisneros

*B.S., Wildlife Conservation and Management*

*B.S., Wildlife Conservation and Management*

*B.S., Wildlife Conservation and Management*

*B.S., Wildlife Conservation and Management*

*B.S., Wildlife Conservation and Management*

*B.S., Wildlife Conservation and Management*

*B.S., Wildlife Conservation and Management*

*B.S., Wildlife Conservation and Management*

*B.S., Wildlife Conservation and Management*

*B.S., Chemistry*

*B.S., Chemistry*

*B.S., Chemistry*

*B.S., Chemistry*

*B.S., Medical Laboratory Science*

*B.S., Computer Science*

*B.S., Computer Science*

*B.S., Computer Science*

*B.S., Computer Science*

*B.S., Computer Science*

*B.S., Cybersecurity*

*B.S., Exercise Science*

*B.S., Exercise Science*

*B.S., Exercise Science*

\*\* Denotes member of Honors Program



## *College of Science and Health*

Jada Da`Nell Collins	B.S., Exercise Science
Karson Douglas Green	A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
Jenna Hoelscher	B.S., Exercise Science
Tre`Von Dylan Holmes	B.S., Exercise Science
Kierstyn Lynn Karr	B.S., Exercise Science
Elijah Jay Larson	B.S., Exercise Science
Dakota Wayne Marti	B.S., Exercise Science
Ronald Marcus Nesbitt	B.S., Exercise Science
Zachary Parmer	B.S., Exercise Science
Quinton Graham Robertson	B.S., Exercise Science
Caden Matthew Romer	B.S., Exercise Science
Jonathan Michael Stanley	B.S., Exercise Science
Jay Turner	B.S., Exercise Science
Emily Elaine Whiteman	B.S., Exercise Science
Lillian Elisabeth Cadden	B.S., Physical Education
Mariana Casadiego Morales	B.S., Physical Education
Marvin Gant	B.S., Physical Education
Caitlyn Elaine Guffey	B.S., Physical Education
MacKenzie Danielle Krause	A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
Landon Roe Bartlett	B.S., Physical Education
Jordan Tyler Brown	A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
Treyton Joseph Campbell	A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
Camden Breanne Castleberry	A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
Tyrese Alexander Dutton-Bicalho	A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
Gelaila Nicole Smith	A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
Satia Rashida Thomas	A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
Carly Nicolle Turner	A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
Cassidy Meyer	A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
Aidan Robinson	B.S., Population Health Management
Alexis Mae Blankenship	B.S., Population Health Management
Ethan Hayes Crooks	B.S., Recreation Sport Management
Traveon James	B.S., Recreation Sport Management
Zion Bergeron Swader	B.S., Recreation Sport Management
Braden Alex Thompson	B.S., Recreation Sport Management
Sa`Quana Lamenta Washington	B.S., Recreation Sport Management
Anthony Webb	B.S., Recreation Sport Management
Joshua Usman Zachary	B.S., Recreation Sport Management
Leah Marie Collier	B.S., Respiratory Therapy
Elizabeth Anne Voga	B.S., Respiratory Therapy
Winston Michael Wolfe	B.S., Respiratory Therapy
Grace Evelyn Carr	B.S.W., Social Work
Gracie Kirkendall**	B.S.W., Social Work
Lilijana Grace Kurz**	B.S.W., Social Work
Abigayle Louise Lykins	B.S.W., Social Work



# ***Candidates for Graduation***

## ***Graduate School***

***3:00 p.m. Ceremony***

### **MASTER OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN ASSESSMENT**

#### ***K-12 Cross-Categorical Special Education***

Amy Ruth Beard

Johnna Diane Stewart

Audriana Rae' Wooster

#### ***TESOL***

*(Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)*

Rachel Edwards

Courtney Taylor

Derek Van Neufeld

Danielle M. Webster

Quinlin Cecelia O'Donnell

### **MASTER OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

#### ***Forensic Investigations***

Aubrey Vandermolen

Cody James Watson

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING**

#### ***Teaching***

Amber Marie Bloecher

David Zuercher Kratz

Erin Caitlin Bradfield

Kasey William McFall

Japheth Daniel Busick

Chance Dallas Parsons

Al'Eysha Nicole Byrd

Ethan Sherman

Salem Leigh Croy

Laura Hannah Thomas

Eduardo Rafael Cruz Mirabal

Mitchell Wagner

Noah Lee Hockaday

Alyka Kay Zahnd

### **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

#### ***Engineering Technology Management***

Danyka Rose Sontheimer

#### ***General Business***

Gabriel Brown

Seth W. Neidel

Konnor Benjamin Buczek

Maria Saez Camara

Peter Augustine Cuddy

Riley Nicole Schneider

Alex Gomez-Grave

Antonio Taylor Jr.

Rylee Jude Harris

Timothy Bennie Taylor Jr.

Na'Keyota Hawkins

Stacy Temple

Colten Jameson Holdsworth

Faith Marie Vandel

Ethan Michael Kilgore

Shelbie Jo Wigington

Jared Scott Munk

# POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

## ***TESOL***

*(Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)*

Karen Fuller

Lineth Carolina Posada

## ***Forensic Investigations***

Katrina Marie Biggs

## ***Candidates for Graduation***

### ***Undergraduate Degrees***

***3:00 p.m. Ceremony***

### ***Division of Academic Affairs***

Jesse Aaron Blakely

Dakota S. Gill

Amanda F. Kimler

Luke Nikolas Baker

Bethany Lee Bennington

Kidtrell Narvel Blocker Jr.

Tonesty Burt

Camden Breanne Castleberry

Jada Da' Nell Collins

Julius Dyon Dixon

Joy Marie Manners

William Mayes

Jordan Myers

Zane Jordan Nelson

Nicole Paden-Campbell

Gelaila Nicole Smith

Michelle Renee Traster

Halyn Nichole Vance

Araimani Wade

Olivia Nicole Webster

*B.S.T., Custom Major*

*B.S.T., Custom Major*

*B.S.T., Custom Major*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

*B.G.S., General Studies*

# College of Business and Professional Studies

Kole Conaway	B.S.B.A., Accounting
	B.S.B.A., Finance
Joseph Bawi Ceu Hnin	B.S.B.A., Accounting
Dawt Hlei Iang	B.S.B.A., Accounting
Nicolas Leonardo	B.S.B.A., Accounting, Finance
Roman Elijah Myscowski	B.S.B.A., Accounting
Connor Peek	B.S.B.A., Accounting, Finance
Jayce Michael Pierce	B.S.B.A., Accounting
Shelby Elizabeth Dannegger	B.S.B.A., Finance
Tristin Kael Jameson	B.S.B.A., Finance
Jeffrey Michael Johnston	B.S.B.A., Finance
Daniel Channing Love	B.S.B.A., Finance, Management
Clayton Joseph Mikesch	B.S.B.A., Finance
Taten C. Piepergerdes**	B.S.B.A., Finance
Ison Robinson	B.S.B.A., Finance
Spencer Alport Sprenger	B.S.B.A., Finance, Management
Anthony Thomas Taggart	B.S.B.A., Finance
Blake Anderson	B.S.B.A., Management
Rogelio Tyler Berumen	B.S.B.A., Management
Carlie Renee Bradshaw	B.S.B.A., Management
Jordan Dane Bratton	B.S.B.A., Management
Elizabeth Hannah Brunner	B.S.B.A., Management, Marketing
Jacob Milton Burri	B.S.B.A., Management
Tyler Michael Carey	B.S.B.A., Management
Molly Grace Carlson	B.S.B.A., Management
Mario Edgar Corado Constanza	B.S.B.A., Management
Aidan Denig	B.S.B.A., Management
Logan Joseph Elliot	B.S.B.A., Management
Luke Ensign	B.S.B.A., Management
Ma'rrell Fountain	B.S.B.A., Management, Marketing
Cody Raymond Franklin	B.S.B.A., Management
Olivia Ryan Horn	B.S.B.A., Management, Supply Chain Management
Trey Ashton Howell	B.S.B.A., Management
Skyler Marie Hufford	B.S.B.A., Management
Arista Makae Kirby	B.S.B.A., Management
Logan Alexander Krogh	B.S.B.A., Management
Keegan Garner Lewis	B.S.B.A., Management
James J. Lucio	B.S.B.A., Management
Maleah Michelle Sosa	B.S.B.A., Management
Zachary Aaron Sweat	B.S.B.A., Management
Tiana Viers	B.S.B.A., Management, Supply Chain Management

## *College of Business and Professional Studies*

Kayla Nicole Zook	<i>B.S.B.A., Management, Supply Chain Management</i>
Gregory Allen Anderson	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Delaney J. Bates	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Monyim Obuyi Ojulo Blakley-Hitchcock	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Justin David Bubak	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Emily Michelle Clark	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Heaven Renee Hutson	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Jayme Nichole Jackson	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Vanessa V. Johnson	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Sawyer Orion Morrow	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Logan Owen Noland	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Cameron Frank Powell	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Kiani Jay Saxon	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Matthew Jerome Schneider	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Nathaniel L. Tracy	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Jayden Scott Williams	<i>B.S.B.A., Marketing</i>
Canaan Thomas Edward Jackson	<i>B.S.B.A., Supply Chain Management</i>
Firaol G. Dabessa	<i>B.S., Criminal Justice</i>
Lerissa Dawn Dolan	<i>B.S., Criminal Justice</i>
Mackenzie Dawn Hickman	<i>A.S., Criminal Justice</i>
Keegan Hughes	<i>B.S., Criminal Justice</i>
Brenna Clerc Jones	<i>Certificate, Legal Assistant</i>
Sophie Marie Lewis	<i>B.S., Criminal Justice</i>
Akmal Aiman Mohd Fauzi	<i>B.S., Criminal Justice</i>
Gunnar Trae Nartker	<i>B.S., Criminal Justice</i>
Harley Dawn Pruetting	<i>B.S., Criminal Justice</i>
	<i>B.S., Law</i>
	<i>A.S., Legal Assistant</i>
	<i>Certificate, Legal Assistant</i>
Ryan Daniel Wallick	<i>B.S., Criminal Justice</i>
Hannah Bentrup	<i>B.S., Law</i>
	<i>Certificate, Legal Assistant</i>
Sarah Dionne	<i>B.S., Law</i>
Kaylea Victoria Fessler	<i>B.S., Law</i>
Melanie Michele Feuerborn	<i>B.S., Law</i>
Lauryn Joy Hilgert	<i>B.S., Law</i>
Samantha Ann Pruitt	<i>B.S., Law</i>
Abby Jo Hanway	<i>B.S.E., Early Childhood Education</i>
Ian George Langner	<i>B.S.E., Early Childhood Education</i>
Brooke Lynn McCloud	<i>B.S.E., Early Childhood Education</i>

## *College of Business and Professional Studies*

Macy Grace Norris	<i>B.S.E., Early Childhood Education</i>
Taryn N. Reents	<i>B.S.E., Early Childhood Education</i>
Cameron Louise Holcomb	<i>B.S.E., Elementary Education</i>
Taylor Anna Jones	<i>B.S.E., Elementary Education</i>
Shea Madyson Keener	<i>B.S.E., Elementary Education</i>
Hailey Madison	<i>B.S.E., Elementary Education</i>
Reece Elizabeth Sacksteder	<i>B.S.E., Elementary Education</i>
Krista Kelly Xia Thompson	<i>B.S.E., Elementary Education</i>
Sophie Elaine Wellinghoff	<i>B.S.E., Elementary Education</i>
Camron Paul Parks	<i>B.S.E., Secondary Education</i>
Mia Brooke Cortez	<i>B.S.E., Special Education</i>
Samaria Toledo Chinchilla	<i>B.S., Construction Engineering Technology</i>
Fielding Michael Trevino	<i>B.S., Construction Engineering Technology</i>
Joseph Bui	<i>B.S., Manufacturing Engineering Technology</i>
Trentin Michael Doss	<i>B.S., Manufacturing Engineering Technology</i>
Nathan Pinkman	<i>B.S., Manufacturing Engineering Technology</i>
Cameron R. Rogers	<i>B.S., Manufacturing Engineering Technology</i>
Justin Serrette	<i>B.S., Manufacturing Engineering Technology</i>
Kolby Scott Sweiger	<i>B.S., Manufacturing Engineering Technology</i>
Dylan John Wright	<i>B.S., Manufacturing Engineering Technology</i>

## *College of Liberal Arts*

Brielle Elizabeth Smith  
 Zachary James Blanke  
 Amila Saric  
 Kendra Marie Simpson  
 Asia Ann Weston  
 Owen Eugene Mustain  
 RJ O'neil Cousins  
 Sabrina Dickinson  
 Angelo DaShane Mitchell  
 Dory Elizabeth Morris  
 Aaron William Whittler  
 Logan Elizabeth Renee Cusick  
 Lillian R. Cutler  
 Ashlin Marie Dugger  
 Ashleigh Kazor  
 Ellice Abigail Randleman  
 Adrianna La'Rae Warren  
 Justin Richard Biondo  
 Isaiah Jamal Davis  
 Blake Andrew Elder  
 Rebecca Ilene Evans  
 Bryan David Ford  
 Evan Christopher Pate  
 Vincent Runnebaum  
 Paul Nick Schwab  
 Emma Marie Bohannon  
 Koryn Michelle Caldwell  
 Tristan Lee Daniel  
 Valeria Jade Elrod  
 Iris Irene Gallegos-Gusman  
 Wimachmorr Gilo  
 Taj Marcel Gregory  
 Caden Haynes  
 Sheyla Mendoza Hernandez  
 Mareyah Kloe Martin  
 Javerius McGuinn  
 Trenton Storm Miles  
 Lillian Abigail Morrison  
 Lauren Elizabeth Nylund  
 Chasity Danyelle Rice  
 Olivia Linn Richie  
 Stephanie Marie Turner  
 Sara Charlene Valentin Acevedo  
 Sara Lynn Yarbrough

*B.S., Applied Communication and Journalism*  
*B.S., Convergent Journalism & Public Relations*  
*B.S., Convergent Journalism & Public Relations*  
*B.S., Convergent Journalism & Public Relations*  
*B.S., Convergent Journalism & Public Relations*  
*B.A.A., Cinematic Arts*  
*B.F.A., Digital Animation*  
*B.F.A., Digital Animation*  
*B.F.A., Digital Animation*  
*B.F.A., Digital Animation*  
*B.F.A., Digital Animation*  
*B.F.A., Graphic Design*  
*B.F.A., Graphic Design*  
*B.F.A., Graphic Design*  
*B.F.A., Graphic Design*  
*B.F.A., Graphic Design*  
*B.F.A., Graphic Design*  
*B.F.A., Graphic Design*  
*B.A.A., Performing & Cinematic Arts*  
*B.A.A., Performing & Cinematic Arts*  
*B.A.A., Performing & Cinematic Arts*  
*B.A.A., Performing & Cinematic Arts*  
*B.A.A., Performing & Cinematic Arts*  
*B.A.A., Performing & Cinematic Arts*  
*B.A.A., Performing & Cinematic Arts*  
*B.A.A., Performing & Cinematic Arts*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
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*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*  
*B.S., Psychology*



# Degree Recipients with Honors

## SUMMA CUM LAUDE (HIGHEST HONORS)

The seal of Missouri Western State University is a circular emblem. It features the university's name "MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY" around the perimeter. Inside the circle, the words "QUALITY EDUCATION" and "RESPECT" are visible, along with a central design that includes a book and a torch.

Rylee Jenea Benight  
Hannah Bentrup  
Elizabeth Hannah Brunner  
Tonesty Burt  
Malgorzata Anna Byczkowska  
Ashlin Marie Dugger  
Kaylea Victoria Fessler  
Weston Thomas Henning  
Ethan Andrew Hoerr  
Tristin Kael Jameson  
Taylor Anna Jones  
Ashleigh Kazor  
Lilijana Grace Kurz  
Daniel Channing Love  
Eleana Grace Messenger  
Kyla Erin Miller  
Lillian Abigail Morrison  
Harley Dawn Pruetting  
Callie Punzo  
Matthew Jerome Schneider  
Jaeden Kristoffer Scott Sears  
Matilda Söderlund  
Mackinley Gordon Sorrells  
Samaria Toledo Chinchilla  
Tiana Viers  
Kayla Nicole Zook

# Degree Recipients with Honors

## MAGNA CUM LAUDE (HIGH HONORS)

Mariana Casadiego Morales

Josh Collier

Kole Conaway

Lillian R. Cutler

Valeria Jade Elrod

Cameron Louise Holcomb

Canaan Thomas Edward Jackson

Keeley Jane Kroonenberg

Clayton Joseph Mikesch

Trenton Storm Miles

Taten C. Piepergerdes

Samantha Ann Pruitt

Ellice Abigail Randleman

Quinton Graham Robertson

Reece Elizabeth Sacksteder

Kiani Jay Saxon

Taylor Lynne Schnitker

Maleah Michelle Sosa

Jonathan Michael Stanley

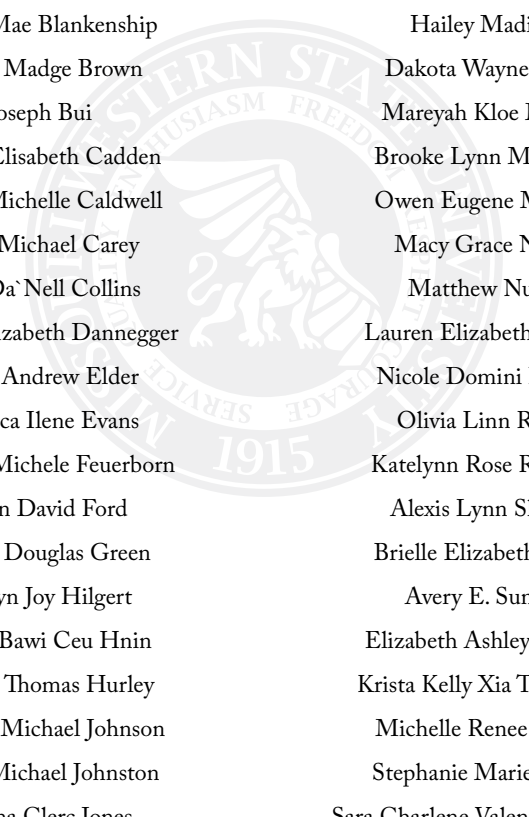
Alexiss Marie Sullivan

Fielding Michael Trevino

Sophie Elaine Wellinghoff

# Degree Recipients with Honors

## CUM LAUDE (HONORS)

The seal of Eastern State University is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features a central shield with a lion rampant, surrounded by the words "EASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY" and "1915". Below the shield is a banner with the motto "COURAGE SERVICE".

Grace Victoria Allen	Jaqueline Renee Lee
Blake Anderson	Nicolas Leonardo
Payton Leann Bentsen	Keegan Garner Lewis
Rogelio Tyler Berumen	Sophie Marie Lewis
Alexis Mae Blankenship	Hailey Madison
Saylor Madge Brown	Dakota Wayne Marti
Joseph Bui	Mareyah Kloe Martin
Lillian Elisabeth Cadden	Brooke Lynn McCloud
Koryn Michelle Caldwell	Owen Eugene Mustain
Tyler Michael Carey	Macy Grace Norris
Jada Da`Nell Collins	Matthew Nunez
Shelby Elizabeth Dannegger	Lauren Elizabeth Nylund
Blake Andrew Elder	Nicole Domini Perkins
Rebecca Ilene Evans	Olivia Linn Richie
Melanie Michele Feuerborn	Katelynn Rose Rowland
Bryan David Ford	Alexis Lynn Shipley
Karson Douglas Green	Brielle Elizabeth Smith
Laurn Joy Hilgert	Avery E. Sumner
Joseph Bawi Ceu Hnin	Elizabeth Ashley Thomas
Jackson Thomas Hurley	Krista Kelly Xia Thompson
Brayden Michael Johnson	Michelle Renee Traster
Jeffrey Michael Johnston	Stephanie Marie Turner
Brenna Clerc Jones	Sara Charlene Valentin Acevedo
Hunter Alana Keithley	Elizabeth Anne Voga
Gracie Kirkendall	Olivia Nicole Webster
Arista Makae Kirby	Kaitlin Marie West
MacKenzie Danielle Krause	Joshua Usman Zachary
Ian George Langner	

## ***Special Thanks to:***

Barnes & Noble Bookstore

Missouri Western State University Technology Services

Missouri Western State University Parking Services

Missouri Western State University Physical Plant

Missouri Western State University Police Department

Missouri Western State University Student Ambassadors

Missouri Western State University Employee Volunteers

Missouri Western State University Symphonic Winds and School of Fine Arts

**The listing of degree candidates and honor distinctions are tentative and subject to final certification of graduation by the Registrar's Office.**

# *Symbols of Academic Tradition and Excellence*

Pageantry, honor, and celebration are traditional elements of university commencements and other academic ceremonies. As symbols of events and affiliations, academic regalia and medallions can be traced back to the Middle Ages. With Missouri Western's designation as a University, three symbols have become a part of the academic tradition at Missouri Western State University.

**Seal:** The seal is the official visual representation of the University as a legal entity and is to be used on official documents of the institution. The University seal is circular with the name Missouri Western State University and the year of the institution's founding, 1915, in the outer ring. The six core values that are fundamental to Missouri Western's mission are listed in the next ring of print. They are Service, Quality, Enthusiasm, Freedom, Respect, and Courage. The center of the seal features the Griffon, a mythical creature first conceived in Europe in the Middle Ages that combines the body of the lion and the eagle. It may be understood to symbolize courage and imagination. The Griffon is also known as the protector of "treasure." Recognizing that education is a treasure to be valued, the Griffon was selected to represent the higher education mission of the St. Joseph Junior College and has endured as Missouri Western's symbol since that time. It is the one symbol that unites the many generations of alumni through the various stages of the University's development. The Griffon as a symbol for Missouri Western has evolved over the years, and the current design is in the silhouette of the State of Missouri.

**Mace:** Symbolic since the Middle Ages of the community of scholars, the mace is carried in academic processions at many universities. The Missouri Western mace is made of local walnut and is adorned with brass and ebony rings. The head of the mace bears an etched image of the Griffon, and brass medallions of the University seal are on each of the mace's four sides.

**Presidential Medallion:** The presidential medallion represents the authority and responsibility of the Office of the President. It is conferred upon the President of the University by the Board of Governors and becomes a part of the academic regalia of the President of Missouri Western State University. The medallion features the seal of the University, a center link engraved with the title "President," and six links engraved with the University's six core values.

The original mace, processional banners and the presidential medallion were made possible by a generous gift from Dr. Joseph Friedman '39 in August 2005. A new mace was created by the St. Joseph Woodworkers Guild and dedicated in April 2019. The mace's medallions and etching were provided by David Takes of Expressions Engraved. Missouri Western acknowledges Dr. Friedman, the St. Joseph Woodworkers Guild and Mr. Takes with great appreciation.

# *Symbols of Academic Tradition and Excellence*

## *Stoles and Cords*

**African-American:** A red, green, and black Pan-African sash represents a worldwide movement to recognize the cultural connection between Africa's indigenous and diaspora ethnic groups.

**Asian American:** A red sash with a lotus flower that depicts the culture of the Asian and Pacific Islander cultures.

**Commuter and Contemporary Students** (*Formerly known as the Non-Traditional Student*): MWSU recognizes resilient commuters and contemporary student graduates by awarding a black stole highlighted with "Grit" on the right sash and the word "Determination" on the left sash.

**First Generation:** Students who do not have a parent who has completed a baccalaureate degree are honored with a 1.5" zipper pull medallion that can be attached to the graduation gown. This medallion represents a First-Generation college student's strength and perseverance. It's a proud reminder of their journey and serves as a motivational symbol for future endeavors.

**Greek Social Fraternities and Sororities:** These stoles are easily identified by the Greek letters that are displayed on them; however the design and color can vary even within one organization. This is due to stoles often being passed down from one generation to the next.

**Indigenous:** A multicolored sash tipped with fringes that celebrate the heritage and achievement of our Indigenous and native students.

**International Students:** Stoles represent each students' country of origin, so they vary in design and color.

**LatinX:** A sash of bold colors that represent different aspects of life and tradition and serves as a powerful symbol of identity, resilience, and success in the Hispanic and Latin American cultures.

**Legacy Cord:** The Missouri Western Alumni Association gives legacy students an antique gold legacy cord to recognize the connection they share with family members who have graduated before them. Undergraduate and graduate students with parents, step-parents and grandparents who are MWSU graduates are considered legacies.

**LGBTQ+:** A lavender stole with an eight-stripe Philadelphia rainbow on sash. The eight-stripe rainbow is enhanced with a black and brown stripe showing solidarity with African-American and Latino LGBTQ+ members.

**Military and Veterans:** MWSU recognizes student veterans, military students and ROTC students with Military and Veteran Honor Cords to wear at graduation. These red, white, and blue cords are a special recognition for those who have made an unwavering commitment to both our nation and their academic studies.

**Registered Student Organizations:** Stoles represent the graduates' participation in the organization. The stoles vary in design and color.

**Student Athletes:** Stoles are provided to graduating students who have been a member in good standing on one or more of the athletic teams sponsored by the Missouri Western Department of Athletics.

## Missouri Western Alma Mater

Words by: DARYL McDERMOTT

Music by: MICHAEL MATHEWS

The musical score is written on six staves, each with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The final measure of the sixth staff ends with a double bar line.

Gent - ly flows the wide Mis - sou - ri, Search - ing for the sea.

Take me to my al - ma mat - er, Where it waits for me.

Though I leave and ev - er wan - der, This I know is true,

When I dream of old Mis - sou - ri, I'll re - mem - ber you.

Loy - al hearts to her re - turn - ing, Faith - ful, proud, and true, Mis -

sou - ri West - ern live for - ev - er. We sing in praise of you.

## *Academic Attire*

*The colored lining of the interior of the hood is the official color or colors of the institution granting the degree.*

*The binding or edging of the hood is of velvet or velveteen and represents the faculty or department.*

*The colors of representative fields are:*

*White – Arts, Letters and Humanities; Drab – Commerce and Business Administration; Light Blue – Education; Orange – Engineering; Brown – Fine Arts; Purple – Law; Lemon – Library Science; Pink – Music; Apricot – Nursing; Dark Blue – Philosophy; Sage Green – Physical Education; Yellow – Science; Scarlet – Theology.*

*The gown for the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist with the rear part of its oblong shape square cut and the front part with an arc cutaway. It may be worn open or closed.*

*The doctor's gown is faced with black velvet and has three bars across the bell-shaped sleeves. These facings and crossbars may be of colored velvet to represent the degree, and agree in color with the binding or edging of the hood. The tassel for the doctor's cap may be of gold thread.*



*4525 Downs Drive, Saint Joseph, Missouri*



*Scan the QR code for Missouri Western's Commencement safety procedures.*