



Allen College

FALL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Class of 2025

Friday, December Nineteenth
Two Thousand Twenty-five
at 11 a.m.

Waterloo Convention Center
Waterloo, Iowa

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Processional: Pomp and Circumstance	Sir Edward Elgar
Invocation	Dee Vandeenter <i>Chair, Allen College Board of Trustees</i>
Welcome	Dr. Jared Seliger <i>President</i>
Greetings	Dee Vandeenter <i>Chair, Allen College Board of Trustees</i>
	Jenni Friedly <i>Member, Allen College Board of Trustees</i> <i>Market President, UnityPoint Health – Waterloo</i>
Introduction of Speaker	Dr. Jared Seliger <i>President</i>
Recognition of Honors & Awards	Dr. Jared Seliger <i>President</i>
Commencement Address	Sarah Brown <i>Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, UnityPoint Health</i>
Conferral of Degrees	Dr. Jared Seliger <i>President</i>
Presentation of Graduates	Dr. Peggy Fortsch <i>Dean, School of Health Sciences</i>
	Dr. Kendra Williams-Perez <i>Dean, School of Nursing</i>
Presentation of Diplomas	Dr. Jared Seliger <i>President</i>
Graduate Remarks	Chase Bowker <i>School of Health Sciences</i>
	Kierstin Morrow <i>School of Nursing</i>

Benediction	Dee Vandeventer <i>Chair, Allen College Board of Trustees</i>
Organist	Nathaniel Parrish
Trumpeter	Jim Vaux
Narrator	Dr. Abby Nieman

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Kaylee L. Odendahl - *Sac City*

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Drew Becker - *Oelwein*

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McKenzie Techam - *Delano, MN*

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Chase Bowker - *Oklahoma City, OK*

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Baylee Beadle - *Parkersburg*
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Kaylie Kay Hackenmiller - *Waterloo*
Mallory Hinds - *Des Moines*
Madaline Claire Hucks - *Ottumwa*
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John Ruehs - *Buck Creek*
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Amara J. Thedford - *Ames*

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

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Piper Finucan - *Webster City*
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Mariah Kay Meier - *Dubuque*
Claire Mundell - *Marion*
Jennifer Simpson - *Marshalltown*

DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

Pamela K. Delagardelle

The Allen College Board of Trustees is proud to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, upon Pamela Delagardelle in recognition of her outstanding service to and support of Allen College and UnityPoint Health – Waterloo (Allen Health System), specifically Allen Hospital, and for her lifelong dedication to healthcare education and patient care in the Cedar Valley.

Pamela has worked in healthcare for more than 40 years, including 17 years as a registered nurse in roles such as staff nurse, charge nurse, director and clinical design/outcomes management leader. She also served as an assistant professor at Allen College before transitioning into healthcare administration. Her leadership roles include CEO of Grundy County Memorial Hospital, CEO of UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital and Senior Vice President of Operations for UnityPoint Health.

Pamela plans to retire at the end of 2025 after a distinguished career. Over the past two decades, she has been one of the most influential healthcare leaders in the Cedar Valley, helping ensure access to high-quality patient care for the community.

Throughout her career with UnityPoint Health, Pamela maintained a close connection to Allen College. As President/CEO of UnityPoint Health – Waterloo, she served as an ex-officio member of the Allen College Board of Trustees. During this time the College experienced significant growth in enrollment and campus development, including construction of Winter Hall, acquisition of McElroy Hall, renovation of the fifth floor of Allen Hospital for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program and renovation of Gerard Hall's second floor office space. She also played a key role in supporting the expansion of the graduate programs in nursing and health sciences.

Pamela was also a strong advocate for Allen College graduates, especially in creating pathways to employment at Allen Hospital. Her leadership led to the development of the Allen Legacy Program, which provides financial support for BSN students in exchange for a work commitment at Allen Hospital.

Beyond her professional roles, Pamela has been deeply involved in community organizations, including Grow Cedar Valley, Waterloo Rotary, Marshalltown Chamber and Economic Development Board, Northeast Iowa Family Practice Residency Board and the Iowa Hospital Association Board.

Her leadership has been recognized with numerous awards, including the 2019 “Fulfilling the Vision of One” award from Grow Cedar Valley and induction into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame in 2018. Under her guidance, Allen Hospital was consistently named a “Top 100” hospital and both Allen and Grundy County hospitals earned “great places to work” honors.

Pamela holds a Master of Science in Nursing Administration from the University of Iowa and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Mount Mercy College.

Bestowing an honorary doctorate is a fitting tribute to Pamela’s legacy of leadership, her support of Allen College and her unwavering commitment to healthcare education and excellent patient care in the Cedar Valley.

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THE ALLEN COLLEGE SEAL

The Allen College Corporate Seal bears the name of the college (Allen College) and the year of incorporation (1989) between two concentric circles. The inside of the inner circle, which has double lines and includes the Allen Health Systems Corporate “A” with a cross in the center, represents the historical foundation and Christian mission of love and service. In the inner circle below the Allen “A” is the lamp of knowledge symbolizing the educational purpose of the college.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The colorful pageantry and dress of the commencement ceremony dates back to medieval times. Academic life as we know it today began in the Middle Ages, first in the Church and then in the universities. Because of the close connection between the Church and the universities, students and faculty wore clerical garb. The long gowns, hoods, and caps were warm and practical in the cold and drafty buildings, and the dress code was an outward sign of privilege and responsibility.

In the fifteenth century, both Oxford and Cambridge made academic dress a matter of university control. In 1895, American universities agreed on a definite system of academic attire. This code has been revised repeatedly, with the latest revisions occurring in 1960. Today, by observing the three main items of attire — the cap, the gown, the hood — it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree -- bachelor, master, or doctorate.

THE CAP: When Roman law freed the slave, he won the privilege of wearing a cap. And so the academic cap is a sign of freedom of scholarship. It also symbolizes the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as square to symbolize the book. Today most institutions use the mortar board style of cap which comes from Oxford. The soft, beret cap has its traditions at Cambridge. The distinguishing feature of the cap is the color of the tassel: the color denotes the discipline.

THE GOWN: The flowing gown comes from the twelfth century. While it originally may have been worn as protection against the cold, today it has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath. The bachelor's gown is full with a closed front and long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown may be open or closed in the front and has long, square sleeves. The doctor's gown is trimmed in the front with velvet panels and has three velvet bars on each sleeve, in colors distinctive to the institution or discipline of the degree.

THE HOOD: In the United States, the hood is the most distinctive feature of academic attire. The color of the lining designates the university or college from which the degree was granted. The length of the hood and the width of the velvet border indicate the level of the degree held. The color of the velvet on the hood indicates the field of study in which the degree was earned. In assigning the distinctive colors, the Intercollegiate Commission retained many historical associations. The white border for arts and letters is taken from the white fur trimming of the Oxford and Cambridge bachelor of arts hood. The royal purple of King's Court signifies law. Blue, the color of wisdom and truth signifies philosophy. The color chosen for the fine arts is brown; for music, pink; for science, gold; for business administration, drab; for education, light blue; for physical education, sage green; for divinity, scarlet; for economics, copper; for library science, lemon; for oratory, silver green; for nursing, apricot; for social work, citron; and for medicine, green.

THE MEDALLION: The President's medallion and Chain of Office serve as a visible display of the authority vested in the office of the College President. As a complement to academic attire, the medallion is worn by the Chancellor at commencement and other official ceremonies as a symbol of Allen College's history and tradition, imparting a strong visual impression. The medallion bears the seal of the College. The Chain of Office combines the College's degrees, core values, honors and the College's Presidents starting with its founder Jane Hasek, Ed.D. The College's medallion was designed in the year 2005.

THE MACE: The presence of the mace is another sign of a ceremonial event. As used in academic settings today, the mace is modeled after a medieval weapon carried by a bodyguard to protect a king or person of high status. Carried at the head of the commencement procession by a member of the faculty, the mace is symbolic of office and authority. The Allen College mace was designed and handmade in 2005 by Wayne Hasek, husband of founding Chancellor Jane Hasek. The mace is made of walnut and banded with brass rings. As on the Chancellor's medallion, the mace is adorned with the Allen College seal.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Allen College, established in 1989, rests on a foundation of 100 years of health care education excellence that began in 1925 with Allen Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. Allen College is a private, co-educational, regionally accredited post-secondary institution offering degrees in nursing and health sciences, enrolling nearly 500 students. The College employs more than 50 full- and part-time faculty. Allen College offers seven academic degree programs: Associate of Science in Radiography (ASR); Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHS) with tracks in medical laboratory science, diagnostic medical sonography, diagnostic cardiac sonography, medical imaging and public health; Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) for pre- and post-licensure students seeking to start or advance a career in professional nursing; Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with five tracks in family, adult/gerontological acute care, acute care pediatric and psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner tracks and a nurse leader track with a post-master's certificate in each of these tracks; Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) preparing advanced practice nurses for leadership roles in clinical settings; Doctor of Education (EdD) in health professions education; Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MS in OT); Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). The College is part of UnityPoint Health – Waterloo.

ALLEN COLLEGE HYMN

words by
Penny Y. Leake

music by
Alfred B. Smith

With voi - ces loud and joy - ous, we will join in songs of old.
We've built a firm foun - da - tion to --- keep us strong and true,

To praise our al - ma ma - ter and our loy - al blue and gold.
For faith and hope and car - ing will --- guide our whole lives through.

For life at Al - len Col - lege builds a hope for all our days;
So, let us join to - geth - er in our al - ma mat - er's praise.

For know - ledge, love and friend - ships true, we will sing your praise.
For God will guide our hopes and dreams, now and all our days.

