



**Concordia University, Nebraska**  
115th COMMENCEMENT • MAY 7, 2022



**Statement of Mission**

Concordia University, Nebraska is an excellent academic and Christ-centered community equipping men and women for lives of learning, service and leadership in the church and world.

**Pre-Commencement Music**

*Appalachian Legacy* Robert Sheldon

*Rise of the Firebird* Steven Reineke

**Processional**

*Pomp and Circumstance* Edward Elgar  
Arranged by James Ployhar

- Marshals of the Faculty
- Candidates for Graduation
- Professional/Technical Staff of the University
- Faculty of the University
- Regents of the University
- Recipients of Honorary Degrees and Awards
- University Registrar
- Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dean of the College of Business
- Dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences
- Pastoral Leader of St. John Lutheran Church, School, and Child Development Center
- Pastor of The Rock Lutheran Church
- Provost of the University
- Commencement Speaker
- President of the University

**Invocation**

**The National Anthem**

*The Star Spangled Banner* Lyrics by Francis Scott Key  
Music by John Stafford  
Arranged by Gary Slechta

**Hymn**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

Lutheran Service Book 850

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple  
 2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -  
 Choir: *Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to*  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;  
 sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
*Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton self - ish glad - ness,*  
 we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom  
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom  
*Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom*  
 Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom

grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this hour,  
 grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these days,  
*grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal,*  
 grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore,

For the fac - ing of this hour.  
 For the liv - ing of these days.  
*Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.*  
 Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

**Commencement Address**

Dr. Kurt Senske

**Presentation of the Candidates**

**Conferral of Degrees and Awarding of Diplomas**

**Anthem**

*Two Shaker Songs*

Kevin Siegfried

## Recognition of Honorary Degrees and Awards

### DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREE

James F. Sanft, Columbia, Ill.  
Dr. Kurt Senske, Austin, Texas

### MASTER EDUCATOR AWARD

Leslie R. Morris, Seaside, Ore.

### CREST OF CHRIST AWARD

Timothy J. Hetzner, Palatine, Ill.

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Greg & Dixie Zabka, Seward, Neb.

### OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

Todd Johnson, Assistant Professor of Business Administration

## Charge to Graduates and Closing

### Benediction

#### The Concordia Tower Song

W.E. Mueller and Theodore Beck

*The audience is invited to join in singing on the repeat.*



Dear old tow'r that shines a - bove us, Dear hearts that catch the gleam; Tho'



miles and years re - move us, Of you we'll al - ways dream. From



Plum to Blue and yon - der We rise Con-cor - dia's own, To



praise as far we wan-der The good that on us shone.

## Recessional

Attendees, please remain seated until all of the graduates have processed out. The recessional will conclude outside in the stadium area to the south of the building.

## Post-Commencement Music

*Rhythm of the Winds*

Frank Erickson

*Sea Songs*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

## Officiants

Bernard D. Bull, Ph.D., President

Timothy Preuss, Ph.D., Provost

Jonathon Moberly, J.D., Dean of the College of Business

Lorinda Sankey, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Education, Health and  
Human Sciences

Edwin Siffring, M.S., University Registrar

## Faculty Marshals

Kristy Jurchen, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry

Mark Meehl, Ph.D., Professor of Theology

## Deputy Marshals

Marcus Gubanyi, M.A., Assistant Professor in Computer Science

Beth Pester, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education

## Music

Concert Band

Kurt E. von Kampen, Ed.D., Conductor

University Chamber Choir

Kurt E. von Kampen, Ed.D., Conductor

Concordia University, Nebraska is a proud member of the Concordia University System, affiliated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

## JAMES F. SANFT DOCTOR OF LAWS



The Doctor of Laws degree is conferred upon individuals who have distinguished themselves through prolonged superior service in their field of endeavor. James F. Sanft has served as President and CEO of Concordia Plan Services (CPS) since 2008 and formerly served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

Sanft is the leader of one of the most successful employee benefits programs in the nation. CPS provides the qualified employee benefit plans of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and serves 6,000 ministries, 85,000 workers and dependents, 25,000 retirees and manages over \$5 billion in assets. Under Sanft's visionary leadership, CPS has expanded its services and benefits while still constraining costs in a rising cost environment. In addition, Sanft lead efforts to secure the Concordia Retirement Plan following the 2008-2009 Global Financial Crisis and in implementing strategies to safeguard the Concordia Health Plan from religious freedom challenges brought on by the Affordable Care Act.

Sanft's leadership has benefitted the community at Concordia University, Nebraska. CPS administers health, retirement, disability and death benefits as well as a 403(b) plan for those employed at Concordia Nebraska. CPS also meets with graduating church work students to help them become financially prepared to enter church work and navigate their benefits as they begin serving the LCMS.

In conferring this degree to James F. Sanft, Concordia University, Nebraska praises God for those who use their gifts in dedicated service in their field. We are pleased to confer upon James F. Sanft the Doctor of Laws degree, *honoris causa*.

James Sanft graduated from Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska, in 1985 with a Lutheran Teachers Diploma. He served for one year as a math and computer science teacher at Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, before earning his Master of Science degree in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln in 1988.

Sanft worked in the group insurance industry as an actuary for Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Minnesota Life in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1999, Sanft joined Concordia Plan Services (CPS) as Director of Actuarial Services. In 2008, he became the President and Chief Executive Officer for CPS.

At CPS, Sanft is responsible for overall management, building relationships with key stakeholders and stakeholder groups, and establishing and implementing CPS's vision and strategy. He shares his knowledge and passion as a frequent presenter at The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod conferences and gatherings.

He is an active leader in the church benefits community, serving as the Chair of the Church Alliance. This work frequently takes Sanft to Washington D.C. to meet with members of Congress, regulators and other officials to discuss issues and concerns of church benefits plans. Sanft has served on the Board of Directors for the Church Benefits Association.

Sanft is active in his congregation, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a small group leader, new member class instructor and leads an effort to revise the congregational constitution and bylaws.

Through the years, he has served his churches in a variety of other ways including elder, church treasurer, school board member, confirmation instructor, choir member and chair of the Vision Statement Revision Committee.

Sanft and his wife, Janell (Broberg) '85, are blessed with three children: Evan Sanft (Nicole), Dr. Ryan Sanft '13 (Rebecca '13), and Tyler Sanft (Madeline). They also enjoy the gift of their two grandchildren.

## DR. KURT SENSKE DOCTOR OF LAWS



Dr. Kurt Senske is the Founder and Principal of CEO-Board Services, a consulting firm that specializes in working with mission-oriented organizational leaders and boards around issues of governance, strategy, organizational structure, succession planning, coaching and mergers and acquisitions.

For the past 23 years, Dr. Senske served as Chief Executive Officer of Upbring (formerly Lutheran Social Services of the South), a multi-faceted, multi-state, social service agency with an annual operating budget of over \$100 million and 1000 employees. At Upbring, Dr. Senske has been responsible for more than quadrupling the size of the agency and steering the once-troubled agency back to financial strength. During his tenure the organization eliminated an indebtedness of \$60 million and currently enjoys an endowment of over \$40 million.

Dr. Senske completed his undergraduate work at Concordia University Texas and Valparaiso University in Indiana, majoring in Accounting with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Illinois College of Law, a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from Schiller International University in Paris and a Ph.D. in Government from the University of Texas at Austin.

Prior to his work at Upbring, Dr. Senske served as Assistant to the President at Concordia University Texas. Dr. Senske also practiced law in Chicago, Illinois, with several law firms, including the firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson. In addition, he has served as a senior staff member and policy advisor for government leaders at local, state and national levels for both the Republican and Democratic Parties.

Dr. Senske's extensive board service includes having served as Chair of the Board of Directors of Thrivent Financial, a Fortune 500 financial services organization. He currently serves as Chair of Thrivent Charitable and as Chair of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Prior board service includes serving on the Boards of Directors of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Chair of LCMS World Relief/Human Care and Lutheran Services in America.

Dr. Senske is the author of four books, *Wine and the Word: Savor and Serve*; *The Calling: Live a Life of Significance*; *Executive Values: A Christian Approach to Organizational Leadership*; and *Personal Values: God's Game Plan for Life*. His forthcoming book is tentatively titled, *The CEO and the Board: The Art of Governance as a Competitive Advantage*.

A gifted public speaker, Dr. Senske has also been a guest columnist on a variety of issues for newspapers and magazines as well as a regular commentator on television and radio.

Dr. Senske and his wife, Laurie, live in Austin, Texas, and are the proud parents of their daughter, Sydney Klieber (Cody).

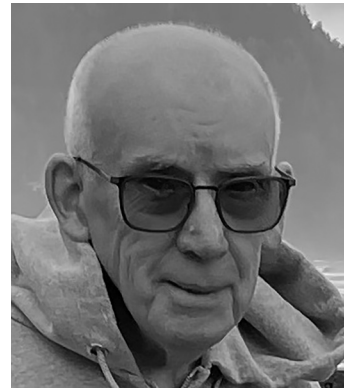
The Doctor of Laws degree is conferred upon individuals who have distinguished themselves through prolonged superior service in their field of endeavor. Dr. Kurt Senske is the Founder and Principal of CEO-Board Services. He also serves as Chair of Thrivent Charitable and as Chair of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Senske's previous accomplishments include serving as Chief Executive Officer of Upbring, serving as Assistant to the President at Concordia University Texas, practicing law in Chicago, working as a political consultant and policy advisor for both the Republican and Democratic parties, serving as the board chair for Thrivent Financial, serving for twelve years on the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, serving as Chair of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, and authoring five books, including *The Calling: Live a Life of Significance*.

Senske is a recognized and accomplished leader in the LCMS. In a wide variety of capacities, he uses his talents and abilities to further the church and its ministry. As CEO of Upbring, formerly Lutheran Social Services of the South, Dr. Senske quadrupled the size of the agency, leading Upbring to be known as the largest provider of children's services in Texas. He broadened and diversified the senior-services portfolio and guided Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response to serve over 10,000 individuals severely impacted by Hurricanes, Katrina, Ike, and Harvey.

In conferring this degree to Dr. Kurt Senske, Concordia University, Nebraska praises God for those who use their gifts in dedicated service in their field. We are pleased to confer upon Dr. Kurt Senske the Doctor of Laws degree, *honoris causa*.



## LESLIE R. MORRIS MASTER EDUCATOR AWARD



The Master Educator Award is presented to teachers, Directors of Christian Education, school administrators and Deaconesses who have distinguished themselves through prolonged superior service in Lutheran educational ministry.

Leslie R. Morris served in Lutheran schools for over 50 years in a variety of capacities including teacher, counselor and principal. He describes his life-calling as not a job but as “opportunities to share the amazing love of God and bringing glory and honor to Him.”

Morris exemplifies ministry in all he does. His leadership was apparent at his call to Bethany Lutheran School in Menlo, California, in 1966. With racial discrimination happening at local schools, Morris opened and affirmed paths for children of all races to attend Bethany and for their families to participate in Bethany church functions. His ministry efforts spread into the community through forming an adult tutoring program, providing food, clothing and shelter to those in need and starting the Lutheran athletic association in the area. During Morris' time at Bethany, the school and church adopted two Laotian refugee families through Lutheran Family Services. The school provided the children's education, English as a Second Language classes and essential needs for the families.

Morris continued to help children succeed in spite of adversity at his next call to West Portal Lutheran Church and School in San Francisco, California. His wisdom, experience and Christian leadership benefitted the school and especially the Asian community. Morris provided thirty years of service to an ever-growing school through a variety of roles including principal, interim principal, classroom teacher, student and family counselor, community builder, yearbook advisor, accreditation leader and committee organizer.

In recognizing Leslie R. Morris as a master educator, Concordia University, Nebraska praises God for providing all who dedicate themselves to education. We are pleased to bestow upon Leslie R. Morris the Master Educator Award.

Leslie Morris was born and raised in Seaside, Oregon. He lived on a small ten-acre farm with cattle, chickens and a large vegetable garden.

Morris received his diploma from Concordia College, Portland, Oregon, in 1962. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Concordia Teacher's College, Seward, Nebraska in 1964 and continued his education at Pepperdine University, receiving his Masters in School Administration in 1966. Morris also received a Master's degree in Theology from Simpson College, San Francisco in 1979.

Morris began his ministry at First Lutheran School, Culver City, California, teaching fifth and sixth grade and counseling the middle school and high school youth group. He was called to Bethany Lutheran School, Menlo Park, California, in 1966. He was a teacher, administrator, principal and pastoral assistant during his time at Bethany. Morris then spent one semester substitute teaching in the Mid-Peninsula Public School system and the second semester as a fourth-grade teacher at Bethel Lutheran School, Cupertino, California. In 1985, Morris began serving at West Portal Lutheran School as the sixth-grade teacher. Morris spent over 30 years at West Portal fulfilling many roles including teacher, principal, counselor and advisor.

Morris volunteered his time in both his church and community. His long list of service includes many in the education sector including adult reading tutor, reviewer of children's literature, proofreader, evaluator of Lutheran and Catholic local schools, mentor to new teachers and leadership roles in many education conferences and committees. Morris gave much of his time to student athletics serving as Commissioner and Treasurer for the Lutheran Athletic Association, Director of the Lutheran Basketball Tournament and Cheerleading Contest and Vice President of Nabata Yero Gridiron Club. Morris also served his community by leading devotions at local convalescent hospitals, visiting shut-ins, serving the needy with clothes, food and shelter as Coordinator of Mid-Peninsula Ministry and teaching Vacation Bible School.

Morris has won numerous awards and recognitions including Who's Who Among America's Teachers, Professional Teacher of the Year, Distinguished Teaching Award, Influential Middle School English Teaching Award and English District Lifetime Ministry Teaching Award.



## TIMOTHY J. HETZNER CREST OF CHRIST AWARD

Timothy Hetzner grew up on a dairy farm in Frankenmuth, Michigan, where he attended a one-room schoolhouse for the first two years of his education. He then attended Immanuel Lutheran School in Frankentrost. Hetzner was active in sports and drama during his four years at Buena Vista High School in Saginaw, Michigan. He graduated from Concordia University Ann Arbor in 1976 and from Concordia University, St. Paul in 1978.

Hetzner began his service in youth ministry at Hope Lutheran Church in Rochester, New York, in 1978. He served as a teacher and youth director at St. John Lutheran Church in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. Hetzner served as Director of Discipleship at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Palentine, Illinois, for twenty years. He now serves as President and CEO of Lutheran Church Charities (LCC).

Hetzner began the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry in 2008. The ministry began when LCC deployed to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina hit to conduct conventional crisis response. FEMA asked LCC to help rescue animals. This gave Hetzner an idea and at the next disaster relief effort, Hetzner suggested they bring a few pet Golden Retrievers to see how this affected the victims on the scene. Now the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry has 130 dogs living across 27 states. The ministry only uses AKC Purebred Golden Retrievers that undergo extensive training. The handlers also must go through many hours of training, and the dogs are trained to work with multiple handlers. The dogs are well cared for and have protocols in place for time limits, break and play times.

Hetzner and has won multiple awards for his work including the ASPCA 2016 Dog of the Year Award for LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ruthie following the Comfort Dogs response to the Pulse Night Club Shooting in Orlando, Florida. The LCC K-9 Ministry has also won the 2016 Marley Award in recognition for the outstanding ministry they have demonstrated.

Hetzner and his work have been featured on Good Morning America, CNN, ABC Nightline, The Doctors, Hallmark Home and Family and the Weather Channel.

Hetzner and his wife, Jackie (Liese), are blessed with four children: Emily Martisius (Joe), Stephen Hetzner (Jamie), Katie Anderson (Brian) and Philip Hetzner. They also enjoy the gift of their five grandchildren.

The Crest of Christ Award is given to members of the Lutheran church for outstanding service to the Church. The award is presented to those individuals who support and sustain in a quiet and deliberate fashion the public ministries and work of the church at large. Timothy J. Hetzner has served as President/CEO of Lutheran Church Charities (LCC), Northbrook, Illinois, since 2001. He previously served in parish ministry for 25 years as Director of Christian Education.

Hetzner has led LCC through many positive changes during his tenure, including initiating Pass-Through-Giving where each dollar given goes directly to a cause or need. LCC works through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations, schools and universities, helping them expand Christ-centered ministry to their communities and world. LCC's mission is to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need. Thousands of volunteers are deployed for disaster and crisis response and mission projects each year.

In August 2008, Hetzner launched the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog ministry with four Golden Retrievers. Currently, there are 130 dogs in 27 states. In 2014, LCC launched the LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry to veterans and their families. In 2017, LCC launched the LCC K-9 Police Ministry using current and retired law enforcement handlers.

In January 2020, Hetzner started the National Hearts of Mercy and Compassion Ministry to reach out to people in their time of sorrow with handmade wooden hearts.

Hetzner is the author and teacher of an in-depth Bible study curriculum called WORD with over 4,500 students from 26 states. He sends out a daily devotion through email. Hetzner also shares his Biblical knowledge through study tours to the Middle East and European Countries.

In recognizing Timothy J. Hetzner with the Crest of Christ Award, Concordia University, Nebraska praises God for providing all who dedicate themselves to serving the public ministries and work of the church at large. We are pleased to bestow upon Timothy J. Hetzner the Crest of Christ Award.

## GREG & DIXIE ZABKA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



The Distinguished Service Award is presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves through outstanding public service. Greg and Dixie Zabka faithfully serve as civic boosters, volunteers and supporters for a large variety of causes and events in Seward, Nebraska, and in the Concordia University, Nebraska community.

Greg and Dixie Zabka demonstrate their love and commitment to the Seward community on a regular basis. Both Greg and Dixie are members of the Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership. Through their combined efforts, Seward is a desired location for businesses, visitors and residents. It is a vibrant, welcoming, family-friendly and safe community.

The Zabkas are strong supporters of Concordia University, Nebraska advocating for the importance Concordia holds in the Seward community. The Zabkas also lift up and support the Nebraska National Guard Museum, where people from all over the state come to learn about the sacrifice and courage of the Nebraska National Guard.

Greg and Dixie are active members of Seward United Methodist Church and many other local organizations, committees and boards. Through all they do, they are a vital part of the Seward community showing a sincere, authentic love for their community and its people.

In recognizing Greg and Dixie Zabka with the Distinguished Service Award, Concordia University, Nebraska praises God for providing all who dedicate themselves to public service. We are pleased to bestow upon Greg and Dixie Zabka the Distinguished Service Award.

Greg and Dixie Zabka both grew up in Fullerton, Nebraska. Greg received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mortuary Science from the University of Minnesota. Dixie graduated from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. The Zabkas have lived in Seward since 1977 when Greg started serving at Wood Brothers Funeral Chapel as a funeral director. Dixie worked in the district office for the Seward School District for 17 years. In 1998, Greg and Dixie purchased the funeral home, and it became Wood-Zabka Funeral Home. In 2008, following an extensive remodel, to better serve families and the community, the name became Zabka Funeral Home. In 2018, upon Greg and Dixie’s retirement, the firm is now Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home.

Greg and Dixie are very active in the Seward community as members of a wide variety of organizations, clubs and boards. They both are members of the Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership and Seward Magazine Club. Greg is a member of the Seward Rotary Club and past Master of Oliver Lodge No. 38 A.F. & A.M. He currently serves as Chairperson of the Seward Cemetery Board and on the Board of Directors of Cattle Bank & Trust. Greg formerly served on the Memorial Health Care Systems Board of Directors and as President of the Nebraska Funeral Directors Association. Dixie is a member of P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Chapter CC in Seward.

Both Greg and Dixie have been recipients of awards and honors. Greg was the recipient of the Seward Community Service Award in 1990 and was honored as the Grand Marshal for the 2019 Seward Holiday Light Parade, recognizing his years of service on the Holiday and Santa House Committee. Dixie has been awarded the Rotary Service Above Self Award and the Outstanding Woman in Business 2019 Award from Concordia University, Nebraska.

The Zabkas are active members of Seward United Methodist Church serving on a number of committees. Dixie sings with the Chancel Choir and both are members of the Building Improvement Committee. Their faith is evident as they try to live each day with gratitude to the God they serve.

Greg and Dixie are blessed with two daughters: Melissa Luebbe (Jeff) and Monica Sommerfeld (Alex), and they enjoy the gift of their three grandchildren.

## College of Arts and Sciences

### Bachelor of Arts Degree

Jacob Ernest Anderson	Noah Richard Fenton	Gabryelle G. Mason	Megan E. Sparling
Celia Rane Askelsen	Haleigh Christine Fitzsimmons	Tanner C. Matt	Brandon Allen Streeks
Grace Anne Babbitts	Claire M. Flood	Elisha Caleb Meyer	Nicholas David Totenhagen
Carrie Abigail Black	Joshua Nathan Frerking	John M. Myers	Katherine F. Trempala
Karsyn G. Bredenkamp	Caleb N. Gierke	Makayla Kay Oglevie	Colten Lee Uitermarkt
Jill Diane Bultemeier	James David Augustine Gramzow	Mackenze Matthew Origer	Olivia Eve Walsh
Keaton Matthew Burgess	Megan Marie Hakes	Dawn E. Pettyjohn	Grace Katerina Weber
Aaron Rodney Christiansen	Regan Ann Karel	Jacee L. Pfeifer	Kailey L. Weichel
Gerard M. Dunning	Elisa Kae Kurth	Morgan Allan Phillips	Justin D. Wiersema
Nicholas Anthony Engebretson	Grant Anthony Lammers	Olivia Magdalene Proctor	Jonah Michael Wilson
Luisa Esquivel Bustamante	Joshua Clifford Marlatt	Cristina R. Sanchez	Luke Daniel Woltmann

### Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree

Sarah Faith Armbrust	Dylan J. Cookus	Emily Grace Niemeier
Celia Rane Askelsen	Claire M. Flood	Kassidy Jo Sloup

### Bachelor of Music Degree

Keziah A. Bruns	Jenna Arlene Fredrickson	Nathan Kenneth Johnson	Shelby Nicole Schanaman
Trenton R. Bruntz	Noah Daniel Freeman	Avery P. Kesar	Joanna Christine Thorman
Garret David Drews			

### Bachelor of Science Degree

Logan Todd Adam	Simon Maxwell Higgason	Maccoy D. Menke	Sarah Eileen Schwacher
Abigail Ryan Aplaca	Matthew M. Kamm	Kenna L. Miller	Cheyenne Nicole Smith
Madison Rae Beran	Carter Joseph Kent	Cassandra Maria Montiel	Avery John Stillahn
Kaylee Val Boyle	Cade J. Kleckner	Abigail Lyn Mullen	Kaetlyn Mae Todd
Nicole Marie Breese	Katelyn Frances Krejci	Matthew Edward Lang Preuss	Brandon Tyler Vega
Jasmine A. Cody	Ashlee M. Long	Sarah Rose Ragland	Samuel Theodore Weiss
Elizabeth Kaitlyn-Rose Gierke	Andrew Clark Lyons	Emily Paige Rasmussen	Lyle Edward Whitney
Emma Rose Grothaus	Logan Andrew Matters	Shiloh Colt Richters	Mario Isaac Ybarra
Kira R. Heinselmann	Decker B. Mattimoe	Xavier Saul Ross	
Frederick F. Herman	Austin K. Meisel	Garrett Ryan Schardt	

## College of Business

### Bachelor of Arts Degree

Jeana R. Brase	Keegan L. Hornung	Peyton C. Mitchell	Hayley Ann Steinbauer
Jacob Alfredo Flores	Max David Johnston	Thomas Robert Sosso	Rebecca Elizabeth Weddell

### Bachelor of Science Degree

Brayden Robert Adams	Cameron Vincent Gray	Camry Nicole Moore	Samuel Alan Scarpelli
Brayden David Becker	Wyatt James Hambly	Da'Vonte L. Mouton	Nicholas D. Schaedel
Yessine Bessaies	Victoria Elizabeth Hatton	Lane Dean Napier	Blake A. Sears
Joseph Patrick Bindl	Matthew Alexander Holmes	Carlos Ivan Orquiz Escapita	Gage Ryan Smith
Jamey M. Broman	Ryan M. Holt	Thomas J. Otte	Naomy M. Snider
Jayden Paul Brosius	Alia Helen Hurst	Mady Elizabeth Payne	Payton Donald Stevens
Daniel F. Cantu	Noah Scott Janssen	Zachary Bryan Pinkerton	Carter Jayde Thorman
Nicholas Michael Cito	Erich Maximilian Kenow	Adam M. Pinn	Brandon James Timoney
Caydren A. Cox	Jack Richard Kitson	Cristiaan J. Priebe	Klay A. Uher
Ashley Kayleen Evans	Sydni Sarah Kroll	Dylan James Rahder	Zachary Tyler Walker
Gabrielle L. Geisert	Juan R. Leon	Cally Dee Rogers	Christian Thomas Wilke
Jacob Ray Glines	Sarah Emma Lewis	Sydney Marie Rogers	Tanner Noah Wubbels
Caleb M. Goldsmith	Erin Janna Maier	Nicholas S. Sandoval	

### Master of Business Administration Degree

Jeremiah D. Berryman	Ethan Edward Doyle	David Moreno	Josie D. Propst-Scholl
Chelsea Ann Bright	Benjamin Ronald Javorsky	Kelley D. Porter	Shawn Patrick Zook
Clinton Charles Colwell			

### Master of Healthcare Administration Degree

Nicole Marie Banzhoff	Rebecca Ann Coon	Ashley Marie Rohm
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# College of Education, Health and Human Sciences

## Bachelor of Arts Degree

Faith Anne Armer	Erica Christine Heinzerling	Abigail Marie Meier	Damien Josef Stewart
Matthew D. Boll	Rebecca Leann Higgins	Courtney Nicole Merryweather	Allison L. Story
Maggie L. Cleveland	Emma Marie Hopfer	Cecilia Marie Minchow	Jetta Caroline Opel Tegeler
Shaina Lee Danile	Isaac F. Howes	Ryan James Moormeier	Kristina E. Tewes
Abigail G. DeLoach	Shelby Leeigh Jones	Rylee N. Pauli	Zachary Tyler Walker
Brooke Ann Elizabeth Duerr	Mackenzie Lauren Koepke	Madyson May Pralle	Jonah Lyle Weyand
Bethany Renae Fuchs	Jonah Thomas Lange	Anna Kathleen Ramsdell	Jack Robert Williams
Jesse Robert Garcia	Danielle A. Larsen	Jarod R. Reed	Dresden W. Wilson
Chase Charles James Hammons	Wyatt W. Lehr	Miranda Jo Rosenkranz	Jake H. Woodward
Megan Olivia Hanenberger	Cassandra Lopez-Flores	Martin Garcia Solano	
Madeline Paige Haugen	Gabrielle Rebecca Luehr	Josef Richard Stevens	

## Bachelor of Science Degree

Arthur James Anderson IV	Rebecca Leann Higgins	Cyrus J. Marshall	Stirling C Tonniges
Keaton Todd Candor	Jordyn Elizabeth Hilyard	Cora Gene Olson	Kailey L. Weichel
Kayle M. Carlson	Logan James Kreizel	Kathryn Lynn Potter	Shane Allan Whittaker
Hannah Renee Fitzsimmons	Gabrielle Rebecca Luehr	Logan Riley Srna	
Ian Thomas Guettler	Jorre Christopher Gray Luther	Chance J. Sterling	

## Bachelor of Science in Education Degree

Ariana J. Acomb	Kayla Joy Ernstmeier	Grace Victoria Lenz	Sydney S. Smith
Amiah Leigh Akerson	Jessica D. Esterberg	Mikayla Jo Lowe	Lukas Jon Sollberger
Andy O. Amos	Parker Andrew Esterberg	Callie Jo McNary	Grant Parks Stadler
Jordyn Misty Anderson	Mackenzie Marie Ferrel	Ruth Autumn Moon	Ashley Renee Stahnke
Emma Joy Armbrrecht	Zachary T. Friel	Brett A. Mueller	Jadeyn Ann-Marie Stutzman
Hunter E. Bartels	Emma Grace Gaffney	Hannah Grace Mulligan	Sarah Ayaka Sugita
Keri Sue Bauer	Gracie Lee Griffin	Bridgette Dawn Nichols	Joshua Z. Taylor
Madison Rae Beran	Michael Henry Grundstrom	Rose Elizabeth Nigh	Makenna Kay Taylor
Grace Rebekah Bernhardt	Elisha W. Hartmann	Grace Catherine O'Neal	Mika Oveline Taylor
Nicholle Ruth Blumenberg	Rebekah Ann Henschel	Josie Lee Oberdieck	Karissa Kay Ternus
Matthew D. Boll	Lauren Marie Holmlund	Ethan James Pankow	Tannor Shanay Tobler
Janessa Ann Brase	Tori Danielle Homolka	Kendra Lyn Placke	Michela M. Tongish
Shayne Dylan Campbell	Grace Elizabeth Huesmann	Zachary John Potratz	Theresa Ann Tvrdy
Reegon Catherine Cast	Autumn E. Johnson	Sarah Rose Ragland	Landon E. Walkenhorst
Dorothy Alina Cook	Grace K. Jonas	Broderick H. Schofield	Kylie Elizabeth Wegner
Arleigh E. Costello	Jessica Lynn Juergensen	Isabel Rae Sermeno	Miriam Abigail Wolf
Hayley A. Denner	Kyndle Lynn Kirby	Katherine Grace Sheldon	Taylor Darlene Wolter
David Grant Ehrke	Megan Elizabeth Klenke	Kassidy Jo Sloup	Thomas Michael Young
Ashley Claire Eller-Emswiler	Olivia Pauline Kruse	Natalie Caroleann Sloup	Taylor Renee Zehendner

## Master of Arts

Amanda Danielle Cool	Tiffany Christin Herman	Kimberly A. Hughes	Ashley Lynn Pano
Anne Marie Dyke	Jill M. Hughes	Robyn L. Okamoto	

## Master of Education Degree

Porcia Marie Agnew	Emily Ann Booth	Guadalupe Castaneda	Antoinette R. Dixon
Vaiali'i Alatina	Amanda M. Borkowski	Karen D. Bates-Chambers	Brittney M. Duffy
Cynthia Yvette Almanza	Qymana A. Botts	Nicole D. Chandler	Lori Elizabeth Dvorak
Kathleen Marie Anderson	Suzanne M. Boynton	Rachael R. Charles	Jillien Eijckelhof
Joe Anthony Arista	Angelique Nicole Branch	Regina Mary Adams Chynoweth	Bettie K. Fluker
Kim Marie Armstrong	Joyce Irene Brandon	Amy Jo Colleran	Austin William Frahm
Brian Charles Ballantine Jr.	Summer Dawn Tschantz-Brewer	JoAnna Elizabeth Collins	Misty M. Galamison
Brynn N. Barnett	Cynthia Dawn Brinson	Faye Renee Conner-Ylsrael	Amanda Danielle Gearin
Elizabeth Melencio Bautista	Alicia Tomiko Brock	Danielle Ora Crowther	La'Vinia Maizie Gray
Tori Ann Berru	Yvonnia Beatrice Brown	Thomas Tobias D'Anna	Jasmine Renee Hairston
Emily A. Bloom	Cynthia D. Burger	Nicole Lee Darnold	Marcel Andre Hallaert
Keionya W. Bolar	Phyllis M. Burks-Hall	Ashley Rose DeBolt	Carol Jean Hart

## Master of Education Degree, cont.

Jose Hernandez-Rosales	Michael Wesley Lindsay Sr.	Mackayla Lynn Niec	Emma Nora Telsa Taylor
Esmeralda Herrera-Rea	Christie A. Lockett	Rene Ann O'Neall	Stephanie Carina Terezon
Carol Carren Hill	Jenny Faleali'i Logologo	Azline Owens	Britney Sharde Thompson
Jason Allan Hirschfeld	Sarah A. Longmire	Phortya Latrese Page	Timo Faima Tua
Cayla Lorraine Ho Ching-Fogavai	Derek James Lovett	Jason A. Patterson	Eillin Camila Tucciarone
Brandon A. Howard	Tracey Raneer' Macher	Naitua C. Fiamaua Perofeta-Levi	Lakeisha J. Waddis
Christine M. Howard	Anjel Theresa Magee	David F. Petruzzi	Brenda Renee Walker
Esther Paul Jacob	Ashley Sunday Malloy	Maria Sablan Quitugua	Wynant Watty-Benjamin
Mishka Jean-Baptiste	Scarlett Olivia McFarland	Lindsay C. Ram	Kirsten Nichole Weissman
Corey Lee Jenkins	Tia Nicole McKinney	Karen Roberts	Carrie L. Whatley
LaTonya Cenikka Jones	Lindann M. McPheeters	Kristina Rodriguez	Rachel Lynn Williams
Mildred B. Jones	Evelin M. Mendez	Ignacio Eugenio Rodr�guez Cal y Mayor	T'leah Matrece Williams
Saheed B. Jordan	Cheryl Evon Merchant	Christian Alan Rollins Sr.	Shirley J. Williams-Kane
Kelly Ann Jacoby	Abigail L. Michael-Almeida	Audrey S. Romine	Andrea Michelle Wilson
Lindsay Anne Kawecki	Blake William Miller	Natasha Kandace Ryals	Emily Rebecca Wilson
Megan Michelle Kerstetter	Meghan Elizabeth Molloy	Taukeya Leigh Brooks	Rashida Wisdom
Annette Lynn Kimball	Jessica Monte	Erika Linae Schmidt	Ruby Kay Wong
Michele Antonia King	Krisdolyn Marie Moore	Jayne Jannell Schroeder	Cloye Janine Woods
Terence J. Kraemer	Stephanie A. Morey-Barry	Charity Romia Scott-Molden	Frecia L. Wright
Brady Alan Landry	Krista Rene' Murzea	Marina G. Shaw	Katharine Grace Young
Robin Lewis	Zahra Kamal Naqvi	Alicia Sims	Esna Karina Zamora
Stephen Lewis	Toby Joe Neal	Heidi M. Snarsky	
Gabriel E. Linck	Karen Dee Nichols	Ashleigh Louise Sulick	

## Master of Public Health

La'Tia Nicole Baulckim	Paw Bway Htoo	Andre D. Martin	Courtney B. Ross
Danielle Aisling Gonzalez	Carole Ann Kauffman	Tiffany Renee Muniz	Andrea Lynn Smith
Brandon Terrel Henderson	Jenna Lynn Kolcun	Jordan Elizabeth Roberts	Andrea M. Thooft



# Church Work Professional Programs

## Lutheran Teacher Diploma

The Lutheran Teacher Diploma is awarded to graduates who intend to enter the teaching ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In order to receive the Lutheran Teacher Diploma, a graduate must have successfully completed all necessary course work, indicated complete dedication to the ministry and evidenced a readiness for service in the church.

Emma Joy Armbrecht	Jenna Arlene Fredrickson	Avery P. Kesar	Sarah Rose Ragland
Madison Rae Beran	Noah Daniel Freeman	Olivia Pauline Kruse	Lukas Jon Sollberger
Grace Rebekah Bernhardt	Gracie Lee Griffin	Mikayla Jo Lowe	Grant Parks Stadler
Nicholle Ruth Blomenberg	Michael Henry Grundstrom	Ruth Autumn Moon	Jadeyn Ann-Marie Stutzman
Matthew D Boll	Rebekah Ann Henschen	Brett A. Mueller	Sarah Ayaka Sugita
Janessa Ann Brase	Lauren Marie Holmlund	Rose Elizabeth Nigh	Makenna Kay Taylor
Keziah A. Bruns	Grace Elizabeth Huesmann	Josie Lee Oberdieck	Karissa Kay Ternus
Kayla Joy Ernstmeyer	Autumn E. Johnson	Grace Catherine O'Neal	Joanna Christine Thorman
Jessica D. Esterberg	Grace K. Jonas	Ethan James Pankow	Miriam Abigail Wolf
Parker Andrew Esterberg	Jessica Lynn Juergensen	Zachary John Potratz	Taylor Renee Zehendner

## Director of Christian Education

The DCE Certificate and the DCE Specialist Diploma for graduates are awarded to those who intend to enter the DCE ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In order to receive the DCE Certificate or DCE Specialist Diploma, a graduate must have successfully completed all necessary course work, indicated complete dedication to the ministry and evidenced a readiness for service in the church.

<b>DCE Certificate</b>				<b>DCE Specialist Diploma</b>
Faith Anne Armer	Matthew D. Boll	Shaina Lee Danile	Madyson May Pralle	Grace E. Wolfgram

## Director of Parish Music

The Director of Parish Music Diploma is awarded to graduates who intend to enter the music ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In order to receive the Director of Parish Music Diploma, a graduate must have successfully completed all necessary course work, indicated complete dedication to the ministry and evidenced a readiness for service in the church.

Nathan Kenneth Johnson

## Pre-Seminary Studies

Concordia’s pre-seminary program prepares students for admission to select seminaries where they intend to complete their training to serve the church as pastors.

James David Augustine Gramzow	Joshua Clifford Marlatt	Carter Jayde Thorman	Nicholas David Totenhagen
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## Pre-Deaconess Studies

The pre-deaconess program prepares students for graduate education leading to certification as a deaconess.

Grace Anne Babbitts

## Baccalaureate Degrees

Concordia University confers the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Science in Education degrees upon students who have completed at least 120 semester hours of valid credit and have fulfilled all other obligations. Appearance of a name in this ceremony program is not official acknowledgement of completion of the degree, certificate or diploma indicated.

## Graduate Degrees

Concordia grants the Master of Arts, Master of Business Administration, Master of Education, Master of Healthcare Administration, Master of Human Services, Master of Public Health and Master of Science degrees to individuals who have completed a program of graduate studies and fulfilled all other graduate requirements. The M.Ed. degree is offered in the following areas: educational administration, curriculum and instruction, early childhood education, literacy, special education and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. The M.S. degree is offered in the following areas: athletics administration and gerontology. Appearance of a name in this ceremony program is not official acknowledgement of completion of the degree, certificate or diploma indicated.

## Graduation Honors

Up to 10 percent of the undergraduate class are graduated “with High Distinction,” and an additional 15 percent of the class are graduated “with Distinction.” A student must have completed at least 64 credit hours at Concordia to qualify for graduation honors.

Concordia University, Nebraska was blessed with many successes this year. The following list includes some of the many accomplishments achieved by our students, faculty and staff.

## Student Highlights

Katie Anderson, Jayzen Armstrong, Katherine Bauer, Haley Compton, Nicholas Engebretson, Ashlee Long, Xavier Ross, Emma Singer, Cheyenne Smith, Colten Uitermarkt, Brynna Walgate, Lyle Whitney and Rebecca Yox, students in biology and environmental science programs, participated in The Conservation Biology of Tropical Systems Study Tour course. They went to Ecuadorian Amazon rain forest and the Galapagos Islands. They met with indigenous people from the Quechua community and worked a full day with Amazoonica, a wildlife rescue and conservation organization in the Amazon rain forest.

Sarah Armbrust, B.F.A. Studio Art, Celia Askelsen, B.F.A. Studio Art/B.A. Art Therapy and Cassidy Sloup, B.S.Ed. Art Education/ B.F.A. Studio Art were awarded the outstanding student award from the Department of Art.

Rachel Battershell, Zachary Bennetts, Jordyn Hilyard, Gabrielle Luehr, Erin Mapson and Kailey Weichel received the Scholastic Achievement Certificate from Phi Epsilon Kappa, a national professional academic honorary society for students pursuing careers in health and human performance professions. This honor is awarded to members who maintain a GPA of at least 3.75 and are of senior standing.

Andrew Brandt was awarded a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) at South Dakota State University in Cybersecurity.

Brynna Bruxellas, geography major and geospatial technology minor from Humboldt, Nebraska, was accepted into the Research Experience for Undergraduates program at North Carolina State University. Brynna will spend 10 weeks this summer working with leading scientists and conducting research in environmental soil science. This National Science Foundation sponsored program provides a stipend, housing, meal allowance and travel reimbursement for accepted students.

Chloe Dahn, Ashley Evans, Macy Gebhardt, Rachel Johnson and Hayley Steinbauer spent their spring break serving in Puerto Rico on a mission trip led by Associate Professor of Communication, Erica Lamm, and Director of Global Opportunities, Julie Johnston Hermann.

Hayley Denner, senior B.S.Ed. art education major, was offered and accepted a K-12 art position at St. Edward Public Schools in St. Edward, Nebraska.

Gabrielle Diamond, Wyatt Ericksen, Morgan James and Cally Rogers were the recipients of this year’s scholarship funds provided by the Foundation of the Nebraska Society of CPAs, awarded to those who intend to spend the majority of their professional accounting careers in Nebraska.

Madelyn Graham earned a competitive summer internship in sea animal rehabilitation at the renowned Alaska Sealife Center in Seward, Alaska.

Jackie (Kira) Heinselman, Bailey Mooney, Emily Rasmussen, Sarah Schwacher, Kaetlyn Todd and Laura VonKampen participated in a mission trip to Guatemala. Dr. Jennifer Janousek, professor of health and human performance, and Dr. Kathy Miller, professor of sociology, led the trip.

Simon Higgason will be attending the University of South Dakota to pursue a Ph.D. in particle physics.

Matthew Holmes received full ride scholarships to Penn State Law and University of San Diego School of Law. He was accepted to Arizona State University Law and has been waitlisted at University of Michigan Law School.

Carter Kent was accepted into Doctor of Veterinary Medicine School at Kansas State University and will attend the University of Nebraska-Iowa State University PPVM.

Ian Kollipara was awarded a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) at University of Texas at Dallas in Software Reliability.

Grant Lammers plans to attend the University of Colorado Law School. He also received full ride scholarships to University of Nebraska College of Law and Creighton University School of Law and offers from Penn State Law, Georgetown Law, USC School of Law, UCLA Law and Duke University School of Law.

Decker Mattimoe will be attending UNMC-Kearney to pursue his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Camry Moore accepted an internship with the FBI last summer and will continue throughout the full academic year. She is a math major with minors in computer science and criminal justice.

Makayla Oglevie, senior B.A. in art therapy major, was accepted into the Master of Art Therapy program at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas.

Cora Olson will be attending Western Colorado University in the fall to obtain her M.S. in exercise science and sport science: high altitude exercise physiology.

Eduardo Rojas received an internship at Sandhills Publishing for summer 2022.

In January 2022, Alexandra Ryks began her music therapy internship at Easter Seals Midwest Autism Services in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Emma Singer earned an internship in wild animal care and conservation at Amazoonico, a wildlife rescue and conservation organization in the Amazon Rain Forest basin in Ecuador. She will not only work with native Amazon animal care, but she will also work with staff from the local Quechua indigenous community.

Kassidy (Grosserode) Sloup, senior B.F.A. studio art and B.S.Ed. art education major, had her artwork, “Original Developing Place,” selected for the Women’s Work exhibition at the Indianapolis Arts Center.

Logan Srna was accepted into chiropractic school at both Parker University in Dallas and Cleveland University in Kansas City and will begin one of the programs in January 2023.

Michaela Twito completed a semester-long mission internship in Costa Rica teaching English and assisting with the Spanish-language ministry of Lighthouse Parrita, a Gospel proclamation organization run by CUNE alumni Ethan and Amanda Hutton and Zach Barz, under the auspices of Mission of Christ Network.



Klay Uher finished the 2020-21 awards year as the No. 1 intern in Nebraska at his internship with Northwestern Mutual.

Colten Uitermarkt will be attending William Penn University to pursue a master’s degree in business leadership and serve as a Graduate Assistant for the WPU Shooting Team.

Taylor Zehendner, senior B.S.Ed. art education major, was offered and accepted a K-5th grade art position at Deerfield Elementary School in Blair, Nebraska.

Ashley Gerczynski, Sydni Kroll, Mady Payne, Cally Rogers and Klay Uher were awarded the “Servant Leader” award for 2021-2022 by the Concordia Business Club. Mady served as the Business Club President, Sydni served as Vice President of the Business Club, Ashley served as the chair of the Career Fair Committee, Klay served as the chair of the Leadership and Ethics Forum and Cally served as the Manager of 10:31. They also helped lead and organize the Fourth annual Business Student BBQ.

Twelve students from Concordia participated in the Collegiate Leadership Competition on April 7-9, 2022. The Collegiate Leadership Competition (CLC), a nonprofit founded in 2015, creates a digital practice field where students can actively apply what they learn via CLC’s global virtual competition. Two teams from Concordia competed against 36 teams from other universities in leadership development for the digital age. The team made up of Sydni Kroll, Averie Lambrecht, Kayla Luebbe, Mady Payne, Klay Uher and Tanner Wubbels finished in 3rd place, the highest place finish a team from Concordia has achieved. The team made up of Chloe Brown, Ashley Evans, Ashley Gerczynski, Noah Janssen, Max Johnston and Cally Rogers finished in 5th place.

Camtamus Women’s Choir was one of six choirs in the state of Nebraska who were invited to perform at the annual conference of the Nebraska Music Education Association in November 2021.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, 100% of Concordia’s music therapy students were offered placements for their required 1,000+ hour internships.

In March of 2022, Concordia’s music therapy practicum students began their placements at Eastmont Towers in Lincoln, Nebraska. Eastmont Towers is the most recently formed partnership developed for the music therapy clinical training program.

The music department sent four groups on tour during the second semester. The University Chamber Choir traveled throughout Nebraska in February visiting churches in Grand Island, Columbus, Hampton and Wayne. The University A Cappella Choir took an 11-day concert tour to Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, singing ten concerts, four worship services and two high school assemblies. The University Concert Band toured in April, visiting Lutheran High Schools and Churches in Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. The Vocal Jazz Choir leaves on tour May 7 and will travel to Lutheran High Schools in Kansas City, Missouri; St. Charles, Missouri; Indianapolis, Indiana; Ft. Wayne, Indiana and Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Concordia Handbell Choir was invited to perform a luncheon concert for the attendees of the Handbell Musicians of America - Nebraska Spring Ring in Lincoln, Nebraska, on March 26, 2022.

Cyrus Marshall, exercise science program major, was accepted into the Master of Athletic Training Program at Culver-Stockton College, Canton, Missouri.

Hannah Fitzsimmons and Jordyn Hilyard are the 2021-2022 recipients of the Outstanding Student Award in Health and Human Performance.

Rebecca Higgins, exercise science and psychology major, was accepted into the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska.

Jordyn Hilyard, exercise science major, was accepted into the Graduate Athletic Training Program at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska.

Jorre Luther, exercise science major, was accepted into the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska.

Kailey Weichel, exercise science and biology major, was accepted into the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Kearney campus, Kearney, Nebraska.

Shane Whittaker, exercise science major, was accepted into the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, San Marcos, California.

Anne Aschmann, Keri Bauer, Lauren Dawson, Ashley Evans, Anah Fuller, Jordyn Hilyard, Madison Kurtz, Emily Loseke, Emma Noel, Addison Smith, Mphatso Smith, Anna Sommerer, Alannah Stahl, Amanda Steinke, Sarah Tompkins and Alexis Urban, led by Dr. Kathy Miller, Dr. Kristen Nugent and Dr. Shanna Opfer, served a full day on an Urban Plunge Service Project in Omaha, Nebraska.

Ian Guettler, December 2021 exercise science graduate, was accepted into the graduate exercise science program at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

## Faculty and Staff Highlights

Dr. Vicki Anderson, associate professor of education, worked with and supervised teams of students in the Spring 2022 semester as they developed curriculum and taught ESL online for Mission of Christ Network. Rachel Fisher, Emily Manley, Emma Noel, Travis Parsons and Ben Toenjes designed curriculum and worked with Dr. Anderson, Macy Gebhardt and Rachel Johnson teaching English to teens and adults in Parrita, Costa Rica, as part of the Lighthouse Parrita Ministry (headed by CUNE alumni Ethan and Amanda Hutton and Zachary Barz, under the auspices of Mission of Christ Network).

Dr. Vicki Anderson was appointed Communications Director for MIDTESOL (MidAmerica Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages), an organization that supports the interests of English teachers in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

Dr. Annette Anschutz, associate professor of education, presented at several conferences, workshops, and retreats during the 2021-22 school year including: The Connections Conference, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, November 2021, where she presented The Many Hats of Leadership and A Few of My Favorite Things; The Lutheran School Administrators Conference, in Orlando, Florida, March 2022, where she presented The Many Hats of Leadership; and the California, Nevada, Hawaii Early Childhood Directors Retreat, in Livermore, California, April 2022, where she presented Team Ministry.

Jeffrey Blersch, professor of music, published three new collections and pieces with Concordia Publishing House: Five Christmas Carols for Piano, 4-Hands, Sunset and Dawning: Organ Arrangements of Hymns for Evening and Morning and a choral anthem “Look With Eyes that See Forever,” on a text by Concordia alumna Lisa Clark. His arrangement of the hymn “Now Pray We To The Holy Ghost” was included in the Lutheran Service Book Hymn Prelude Library, three of his original hymn tunes were included in the recently published Christian Worship hymnal. Blersch was also appointed Dean of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in December 2021.

Seth Boggs, associate professor of art, Justin Groth, assistant professor of art, Aaron Nix, assistant professor of art, and Don Robson, professor of art, curated and presented “Art & Artifact” in the Marxhausen Gallery of Art. The show ran from February 6-March 24th, 2022, and involved collaboration with many colleagues across the university.

Seth Boggs completed a 1000+ square foot mural on an exterior wall of The Alps Bark Park in Seward, Nebraska.

Rev. Dr. David Coe was advanced from assistant to associate professor of theology at Concordia University, Nebraska.

Rev. Dr. David Coe, associate professor of theology, was awarded Outstanding Academic Title by Choice Reviews for his book Kierkegaard and Luther (Fortress Academic, 2020).

Rev. Dr. David Coe had his article, Law and Gospel, Distinction and Dialectic: Walther, Kierkegaard, and the Rich Young Ruler, accepted for publication in the Kierkegaard Studies Yearbook 2022, edited by Heiko Schulz, Jon Stewart, and Karl Verstrynge, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2022.

Rev. Dr. David Coe presented his book, Provoking Proverbs: Wisdom and the Ten Commandments, to the Great Plains District Presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (March 2022).

Rev. Dr. David Coe will present his book, Provoking Proverbs: Wisdom and the Ten Commandments, at the LCMS Theology Professors Conference (May 2022).

Rev. Dr. David Coe has been invited by the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, UK, to present his paper, Anfechtung: Luther and Kierkegaard’s Inheritance of Theologia Deutsch, for their conference, Kierkegaard and Mysticism (June 2022).

Rev. Dr. David Coe has been invited to be the keynote speaker for the LCMS Nebraska District Convention in Kearney, Nebraska (June 2022).

Dr. Jennifer Fruend, associate professor of biology, and Dr. Ed Hoffman, associate professor of criminal justice, led students on The Conservation Biology of Tropical Systems Study Tour course. They went to Ecuadorian Amazon rain forest and the Galapagos Islands. They met with indigenous people from the Quechua community and worked a full day with Amazoonica, a wildlife rescue and conservation organization in the Amazon rain forest.

Dr. Brian Gauthier, assistant professor of theology, philosophy and Biblical languages and director of pre-seminary and pre-deaconess programs, graduated with a Ph.D. in doctrinal theology from Concordia Seminary with a dissertation: Jesus, In, With, and Under the Spirit: The Presence and Activity of the Spirit in Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar on May 21, 2021.

Dr. Brian Gauthier was named director of the pre-seminary program at Concordia University, Nebraska in August 2021.

Dr. Brian Gauthier lectured on Intrepretación de los Profetas as a guest lecturer for Seminario Concordia El Reformador (Santiago, Dominican Republic) and pastors from around Latin America, the Caribbean and South America in May 2021.

Dr. Brian Gauthier taught Lectura Hebrea as a guest lecturer for seminarians at Seminario Concordia El Reformador (Santiago, Dominican Republic) from January-April 2022.

Dr. Brian Gauthier presented Jesus In, With, and Under the Spirit for the Greater Plains District Presidents Meeting at Concordia University, Nebraska on March 17, 2022.

Dr. Brian Gauthier presented The Spirit and the Supper for the Seward Circuit of pastors and deaconesses at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Milford, Nebraska, on April 4, 2022.

Dr. Amanda Geidel, education department chair and director of special education, was advanced in rank to full professor as of January 2022.

Dr. Amanda Geidel presented at the Rocky Mountain District church workers conference in Breckenridge, Colorado, October 21-22. Her topics included classroom adaptations and the pre-referral planning process.

Dr. Gabriel Haley, associate professor of English, was elected to the Board of Directors for the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education at the CCLE summer conference in July 2021. Dr. Haley was also named to the board of editors for the forthcoming Classical Lutheran Education Journal.

Dr. Gabriel Haley was invited to be the conference speaker at the LCMS Wyoming District Homeschool Retreat in Casper, Wyoming, in July 2022.

Dr. Gabriel Haley’s talk, Ad fontes, non ad stagnata: A Theory of Reading Great Books, was accepted to be presented at the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education Conference, which will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in July 2022.

Nicole Jacobs, director of music therapy, was recognized by Kansas State University for placing in the top 10% of graduate students. Professor Jacobs is a second-year doctoral student in the adult learning and leadership program.

Dr. Jennifer Janousek, professor of health and human performance, and Dr. Kathy Miller, professor of sociology, along with two medical providers, Jill Beisel and Dr. Sarah Matthias, led a group of students on a health and medical mission trip to Amatitlan, Guatemala, over spring break.

Dr. Kurt E. von Kampen traveled to Parker, Colorado, in November as a choral clinician, working with the choirs at Lutheran High School, Christopher Loesel, director.

Dr. Keith Kerschen, assistant professor of education, had his research featured as part of a presentation at the Research Council on Mathematics Learning (RCML) annual conference on March 5, 2022. The presentation was titled, PSTs and Vignettes: Identifying Critical Issues in Mathematics Education.

Dr. Erica Lamm, associate professor of communication and MBA program director, presented on two panels at the National Communication Association annual conference in Seattle, Washington, in November 2021.

Dr. Erica Lamm is presenting teacher listening research at the American Educational Research Association annual conference in San Diego, California, in April 2022.

Aaron Nix, assistant professor of art, won a “Best in Nation” award in the Video Program category from the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) organization. The video was awarded to the video titled “Follow Us” which was produced in collaboration with the Concordia football team.

Aaron Nix had two photos from his Paper Series selected to “The Magic Silver Show: The Elena Diane Curris Juried Photography Exhibition”, a biennial international juried show open to artists working in all photo-media processes. His photo, Paper Series #4, won 3rd place overall and received a Purchase Award leading to his work belonging to the permanent collection of the Clara M. Eagle Gallery at Murray State University.

Aaron Nix directed and co-wrote the short film “Soap Opera Soap Opera” which won Best Film, Best Cinematography, Best Use of Prop, and Runner up for Best use of Required Dialogue Line at the 2021 Omaha Film Festival 48 Hr. Film Competition. Jordyne Vanselow, ’20, co-wrote and starred in the film. Cassidy Sloup, ’22, also starred in the film. The film was also an official selection of the 2022 Omaha Film Festival and screened March 11, 2022, in Omaha, Nebraska.

Aaron Nix wrote a feature length screenplay titled “Old Friends.” The screenplay was selected as a semi-finalist for the 2022 Omaha Film Festival Screenplay Contest.

Dr. Shanna Opfer, associate professor of education, gave two presentations at The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Kansas District Educator’s Conference: Differentiation: Philosophically on Board, but Practically Challenged and Globally Networked Curriculum Projects.

Dr. Shanna Opfer presented Classroom Leadership: Gospel-Focused, Relationship-Driven, Proactive, Engagement-Rich, Response-Ready at the Nebraska Northeast Educator’s Conference.

Dr. Jerrald Pfabe, professor emeritus, published an article titled Crime in Seward County, Nebraska: A Comparison of the Years 1869-1908 and 1919-48 in Nebraska Magazine of History in the Spring issue of 2022.

Don Robson, professor of art and chair of the art department, was one of 22 artists selected to be included in the Norfolk Art Center’s 15th Annual Juried Visual Arts Exhibit in Norfolk, Nebraska, for his entry entitled Looking For.

Don Robson’s work entitled NEWI Series D was selected to be included in ARTCetera 2022 at the Sioux City Art Center in Sioux City, Iowa. The exhibit features artworks that support both a dynamic exhibition and an important fundraiser for the Art Center Association of Sioux City.

Dr. Dylan Teut, executive eirector of the Plum Creek Literacy Festival, presented Literacy and Learning in Such a Time as This at the Nebraska District All Professional Church Worker’s Conference in Kearney, Nebraska, in October 2021.

Dr. Dylan Teut presented Comprehension in Context at the Iowa Midlands Reading Council Conference in October 2021.

Dr. Dylan Teut’s dissertation, Novice Teachers’ Perspectives of Efficacy Using Literacy Assessment Data to Make Decisions, was nominated as an outstanding dissertation in the Ph.D. program for the year of 2021 at Walden University.

Dr. Dylan Teut contributed to Debbie Miller and Emily Callahan’s book, I’m the Kind of Kid Who... , a book for educators introducing a framework for introducing choice making in the classroom which encourages students to find out who they are, how they learn and what they need to thrive.

Dr. Dylan Teut has been invited to present about matching interventions with student needs at the Iowa State Reading Council/ Iowa Library Association joint conference in Ames, Iowa, in June 2022.

Dr. Sara Brady, associate professor of psychology, co-authored a manuscript with students Taylor Gipe and Rachel Kunkel for publication in Journal of Psychological Inquiry. Dr. Brady mentored student Emma Hopfer in submission of a manuscript to Journal of Psychological Inquiry.

Dr. Sara Brady was advanced in rank to associate professor as of January 2022.

Jessica Brashear, instructor in the Master of Arts in School Counseling, presented “Mental Health Rooted in Christ: Finding Blooms in the Thorns of Life” as part of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund Growing in Christ Webinar series on July 1, 2022. She also submitted writing to Concordia Publishing House that will be included in a devotional book for women published in summer of 2022.

Dr. Nolan Harms, chair and associate professor of health and human performance, has been granted a postdoctoral research fellowship for the Fall 2022 semester at the Nebraska Athletic Performance Lab on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dr. Curt Beck, professor of business administration, led a group of undergraduates to compete in the Collegiate Leadership Competition on April 7-9, 2022. The two teams from Concordia finished in 3rd place and 5th place out of 36 teams.

## Academic Regalia

Academic costume has its origin in the schools of the 12th and 13th centuries when universities were most often administered by faculty and staff associated with the church.

The colors and designs of the lining of the hood represent the institution. Concordia is represented by the royal blue and white chevrons. The colored strip around the border of the hood indicates the academic area in which the degree was earned. Following are the colors and their corresponding academic areas:

<b>Maize</b>	Agriculture	<b>Purple</b>	Law	<b>Sage Green</b>	Physical Education
<b>White</b>	Arts, Letters, the Humanities	<b>Lemon Green</b>	Library Science	<b>Salmon Pink</b>	Public Health
<b>Drab</b>	Commerce, Accountancy, Business	<b>Green</b>	Medicine	<b>Golden Yellow</b>	Science
<b>Copper</b>	Economics	<b>Pink</b>	Music	<b>Citron</b>	Social Work
<b>Light Blue</b>	Education	<b>Apricot</b>	Nursing	<b>Scarlet</b>	Theology
<b>Brown</b>	Fine Arts, Architecture	<b>Dark Blue</b>	Philosophy		

## Support the Graduates Online using #CUNEGrad

Wish the Class of 2022 well by including #CUNEGrad with a photo or personal message on your own Facebook page, Twitter channel or Instagram account this weekend.

## Emergency Information

In the event of an emergency, please locate the nearest exit and leave the building in an orderly fashion. In the event of a tornado, please proceed to the locker rooms on the lower level, as they are the designated tornado shelter areas.

