



Hesston College  
**Commencement**  
**2026**

**Saturday, May 16, 2026**

**HESSTON  
COLLEGE**

# HESSTON COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

May 16, 2026

Yost Center

## Processional

### Welcome

**Mark Landes, M.B.A.**

*President*

### Choral Invocation

*“Hope Lingers On” – Lissa Schneckenberger, arr. Andrea Ramsey*

*Lily Corkill, djembe*

**Bel Canto Singers**

**Greg Bontrager ’86, M.M.E.**

*Director of Choral Activities*

### Scripture

Lamentations 3:22-23

**Ross Peterson-Veatch, Ph.D.**

*Vice President of Academics*

**Santiago Gonzalez**, Spanish

**Misaki Kurata**, Japanese

**Blen Bezuwork**, Amharic

**Connor Bear**, English

*Graduates*

### Student Speakers

**Ross Peterson-Veatch, Ph.D.**

**Madison Jarvis**, Associate Degree Student

**Kendall Boughfman**, Bachelor’s Degree Student

*Graduates*

### Commencement Address

**Chantel Cherney, M.S.N.**

*Nursing Professor*

### Recognition of 2026 Graduates

Nations represented in the graduating class

Academic honors graduates

**Ross Peterson-Veatch, Ph.D.**

### Conferring of Degrees

**Mark Landes, M.B.A.**

**Ross Peterson-Veatch, Ph.D.**

**Heidi Hochstetler ’00, M.Ed.**

*Registrar*

### Choral Music

*“This I Pray” – Kelson Graber and Stairwell*

**Bel Canto Singers**

**Greg Bontrager ’86, M.M.E.**

*Director of Choral Activities*

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Susan '90 and Ben Miller Setiawan**  
*Parents of Samuel Setiawan, Graduate*

**Closing Remarks**

**Mark Landes, M.B.A.**

**Recessional**

*Following the recessional, the audience may greet graduates on the lawn east of Yost Center. The Alumni Association cordially invites graduates and their families to a come-and-go reception with refreshments immediately following commencement. All are welcome to stop by, celebrate together and graduates can pick up a special gift.*

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## **PROGRAM NOTES**

Please turn off all cell phones during the service.

The service is being live-streamed at [hesston.edu/commencement-webcast](https://hesston.edu/commencement-webcast).

*In accordance with Kansas State Fire Marshal regulations, we request you take a moment to identify the two emergency exits closest to you. Staff members have checked these exits and the other emergency equipment in the building and verify they are available for use in case of an emergency. In the event of an emergency, pay close attention to the announcer or your usher for important life safety information.*

## REGALIA

In 1893, an intercollegiate commission presented a uniform code for caps, gowns and hoods to be worn by graduates from colleges in the United States. The mortarboard caps are the same for doctoral, master's and baccalaureate degrees, except that doctoral caps may be tams made of velvet and may have a gold tassel. The gown worn for the bachelor's degree is marked by pointed sleeves, reaching to the knee, while the sleeve of the master's gown is squared at the ends and longer. The doctoral robe is the fullest, with rounded bell-shaped sleeves marked by three velvet chevrons.

The greatest symbolism of the academic regalia is shown in the hood, which identifies the level of the degree, the department of learning in which it was earned and the institution which awarded it. The size of the hood, its shape and the width of its velvet trim identify the level of the degree, with doctoral hoods being the fullest, widest and longest. Faculty colors indicate the department.

Colors you may see represented in today's processional are: blue for education, copper for economics, drab (a dull, light brown) for business and accountancy, brown for dramatic and fine arts, orange for engineering, purple for law, lemon for library science, pink for music, apricot for nursing, dark blue for philosophy, sage green for physical sciences, citron for social sciences, scarlet for theology, gold for physics, math, environmental science and psychology and white for sociology, history and English, among many available. The colors are mandatory on hoods, but may also be used on tassels and on the velvet on doctoral gowns.

The university or college is usually identified by the color of the hood lining. Two colors are frequently used, since there are approximately 4,000 degree-granting institutions in the United States. If one has multiple degrees, the rule is that only one hood and one discipline color is worn.

The regalia worn by the president features Hesston College's signature maroon and yellow colors. While doctoral regalia typically have three velvet chevrons on the sleeve, the regalia of a college or a university president differs in that it has four. The regalia of the Hesston College president also has the seal of the college embroidered on each breast.

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE GRADUATES

### BACHELOR OF ARTS, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT MAJOR

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**Robert Mason Gambill**, *Midwest City, Okla.*

**Santiago Gonzalez**, *Artesia, N.M.*

**Yoshimune Goto**, *Tokyo, Japan*

**Mark Angelo Ruaburo**, *Lanai City, Hawaii*

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, AVIATION – PROFESSIONAL PILOT MAJOR

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**Michael Timothy Babi**, *Bennett, Colo.*

**Connor Shea Bear**, *Sequim, Wash.\*\**

**Samuel Garam Setiawan**, *Goshen, Ind.\*\*\**

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING MAJOR

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**Tana Jean Hayworth**, *Lincoln, Kan.\*\*\**

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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**Kendall Elizabeth Boughfman**, *McPherson, Kan.\**

**Jordyn Ja'Sean Castellanos**, *Wichita, Kan.*

**BobbiJo Ann Ceniceros**, *Hutchinson, Kan.*

**Hope Enping Dewey**, *Wichita, Kan.\**

**Madeline Hailey Estrada Miller**, *Wichita, Kan.*

**Anna Marie Friesen**, *Halstead, Kan.\**

**Nicolee Rae Friesen**, *Halstead, Kan.*

**Brianna Nicole Hicks**, *Newton, Kan.*

**MacKenzie Rose Hunter**, *Moundridge, Kan.*

**Elizabeth Nicole Hynes**, *Salem, Ore.*

**Taylor Madison Ingalls**, *Hesston, Kan.*

**Ivie Christine Kierl**, *Wichita, Kan.*

**Dari Thi Lam**, *Wichita, Kan.*

**Emma Lu Lampereur**, *Murdock, Kan.*

**Megan Grace Lulloff**, *McPherson, Kan.*

**Starla Marie Miller**, *Hutchinson, Kan.*

**Alexandria Lynn Nickel**, *Newton, Kan.\*\*\**

**Sydney Nicole Page**, *Wichita, Kan.\**

**Lauren Emily Payne**, *Geuda Springs, Kan.\**

**Lisa Michelle Perry**, *Andover, Kan.*

**Bethany Grace Peters**, *Cottonwood Falls, Kan.\**

**Isabella Nicole Reece**, *Wichita, Kan.\*\*\**

**Eliana Lashe Rivera**, *Hutchinson, Kan.*

**Fabianca Kerstine Saintil**, *Port-au-Prince, Haiti*

**Kyndal Paige Simpson**, *Hesston, Kan.\**

**Marcie Simikia Snyder**, *Wichita, Kan.*

**Kimberly Anne Webb**, *Wichita, Kan.*

**Lindsie Jo Wholf**, *Newton, Kan.*

**Evangelina Renae Zogu**, *North Newton, Kan.\*\*\**

\*cum laude (3.5 to 3.69 GPA), \*\*magna cum laude (3.7 to 3.89 GPA), \*\*\*summa cum laude (3.9 to 4.0 GPA)

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATES

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A.A. – Associate of Arts; A.A.A.S. – Associate of Applied Arts and Sciences;

A.G.S. – Associate of General Studies; A.S. – Associate of Science

**Blen Tadesse Bezuwork**, *A.S., Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

**Christian Haras Buchanan**, *A.A., Montgomery, Texas*

**Christopher Scott Cammlarie**, *A.A., Mckinney, Texas*

**Noel Anthony Cesena**, *A.A., Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.*

**Hanah Nicole DeBelle**, *A.A., Castle Rock, Colo.*

**Robert J. Deibert**, *A.S., Cosmopolis, Wash.*

**Miyu Fujii**, *A.A., Osaka, Japan*

**Evelyn Grace Gaertner**, *A.A., Newton, Kan.*

**Trinity Nevaeh Anastasia Garcia**, *A.A., Gilbert, Ariz.*

**Audrey Anne Garrison**, *A.S., Meridianville, Ala.*

**Carlos Oswaldo Gonzalez Huerta**, *A.A., Wichita, Kan.*

**Taiga Goto**, *A.A., Tokyo, Japan*

**Daniel Guillaume**, *A.S., Absecon, N.J.*

**Drew Brandon Gumbs**, *A.G.S., Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

**Abbygail Ana Hamm**, *A.A., Seminole, Texas*

**Muhammad Zafar Hasan**, *A.S., Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic*

**Brin M. Hecker**, *A.S., Salina, Kan.*

**Jayson Allen Hess**, *A.A., Dallas, Texas*

**Serena Renee Hewes**, *A.A., Battle Ground, Wash.*

**Amy Charlene Hunley**, *A.A., Owensboro, Ky.*

**Jack Mathieu Hunter**, *A.S., Abilene, Kan.*

**Uyen Phuong Huynh**, *A.A., Lam Dong, Vietnam*

**Madison Christella Jarvis**, *A.A., Baker, La.*

**Beau Rocky Johnson**, *A.A., Englewood, Colo.*

**Kaleb Michael Kindley**, *A.A., Mannford, Okla.*

**Misaki Kurata**, *A.A., Osaka, Japan*

**Sterling Joseph Lies**, *A.A., Newton, Kan.*

**Landon Jack Lunsford**, *A.A., North Newton, Kan.*

**Jett Riley Millsap**, *A.A., Killeen, Texas*

**Aiden Wesley Neil**, *A.S., Aberdeen, Wash.*

**Yuki Ono**, *A.A., Nagoya, Japan*

**Alexander Radu**, *A.A., Dagenham, United Kingdom*  
**Khamaraa Jo'Leigh Ramirez**, *A.A., Newton, Kan.*  
**Mauricio Ramirez**, *A.S., El Paso, Texas*  
**Genesys Lynn Rivera**, *A.A., Wichita, Kan.*  
**Abygail Romero**, *A.A., Baldwin Park, Calif.*  
**Jeremi Saavedra**, *A.G.S., Bogota, Colombia*  
**Yui Sato**, *A.A., Kawagoe, Japan*  
**Suryansh Shetty**, *A.A., Auckland, New Zealand*  
**Kohsuke Shiokawa**, *A.A., Tokyo, Japan*  
**Colby Gene Simkins**, *A.A., Belvue, Kan.*  
**Makoto Suzuki**, *A.A., Shizuoka-shi, Japan*  
**Brooke Leigh Tafoya**, *A.A., Fort Collins, Colo.*  
**Diego Kenji Taira**, *A.A., Pueblo Libre, Peru*  
**Ethan Paul Thompson**, *A.S., Hesston, Kan.*  
**Nedas Vaivada**, *A.A., London, United Kingdom*  
**Jaden Jordan Watson**, *A.A., Clayton, Del.*  
**Luke Boyd Westbrook**, *A.S., Burkburnett, Texas*  
**Josalyn Sue Wipf**, *A.G.S., Huron, S.D.*  
**Sakura Yamada**, *A.A., Tokyo, Japan*  
**Yura Yamazaki**, *A.G.S., Sagamihara, Japan*  
**Justin Young**, *A.G.S., Richardson, Texas*  
**Ryan Jay Ziesch**, *A.A., Goddard, Kan.*

## **CERTIFICATE GRADUATE**

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Missional Leadership Certificate

**Priscilla M. Soptelean Spiker**, *Orrville, Ohio*



# HESSTON COLLEGE

Hesston College  
301 S Main Street  
Hesston, Kansas 67062

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[hesston.edu](http://hesston.edu)