



# 2024

COMMENCEMENT

## **NORTH CENTRAL LOYALTY SONG**

*North Central, North Central,  
To thee our song we raise.*

*North Central, North Central,  
In gratitude and praise.*

*These college days will come and go,  
But through the years will ever glow  
Our memories of thee.*

*North Central, we give our minds,  
North Central, we give our hearts,  
We give our loyalty.*

Music & Lyrics (1963)  
– Ross Stoakes Jr.



# **NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE**

## **64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES**

May 3, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

*Petoskey Plastics Arena, Student and Community Resource Center*

### **PROCESSIONAL**

*Pomp and Circumstance*, Elgar

### **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME**

David Roland Finley, Ph.D., President

### **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Performed by Kaitlyn Hammerle,  
NCMC Class of 2024 graduate

### **INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

David Roland Finley, Ph.D., President

### **PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE**

David Roland Finley, Ph.D., President

Stephen Strom, Ph.D.,  
Vice President of Academic Affairs

### **INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER**

David Roland Finley, Ph.D., President

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Monica Peck, Librarian and  
Community Leader

AAS, North Central Michigan College  
B.S., Lake Superior State University  
MLIS, Wayne State University

### **PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES**

Stephen Strom, Ph.D.,  
Vice President of Academic Affairs

### **PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS**

Dan Rasmussen, Board Chairperson

Kerri Finlayson, M.A.,  
Anthropology and Sociology Faculty

Holly Owen, MSN, BSN,  
Nursing Faculty

### **TURNING OF THE TASSEL**

David Roland Finley, Ph.D., President

### **ALUMNI WELCOME**

Chelsea Platte,  
Vice President for Advancement  
Executive Director - NCMC Foundation

### **RECESSIONAL**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Graduates, the word *commencement* means “a beginning.” You have achieved a significant new beginning, which in itself is cause for celebration. The new opportunities that will present themselves because of your new beginning are also cause for celebration.

However, perhaps the greatest celebration is that you have arrived at this moment. For some of you, it has been a bumpy path to travel: obstacles, hurdles, roadblocks, detours, maybe even a U-turn. Yet you persisted, and now you sit at a major new beginning.

There is freshness to new beginnings; there is excitement in the air, and I believe it is invigorating. I hope you hold on to the spirit of this day. I hope you enjoy your new beginning. And I hope you will remember this day and this college as you travel your new path.

You will be the College’s representatives in many disciplines and many places throughout the world, and I trust that your work will reflect honor upon and bring greater strength to North Central Michigan College.

You have achieved one set of goals, and now it is time to reach for another. Remember: Your degree is not an end, but rather a beginning — a catalyst for the inception of what you will become.

Congratulations, graduates! Go forth and make your mark on this world.



David Roland Finley, Ph.D.



*North Central Michigan College's seven trustees are elected by Emmet County voters to serve without compensation for a six-year term.*

Seated are, from left:  
Secretary Melissa Keiswetter, Chair Dan Rasmussen and Trustee Chris Etienne.

Standing are, from left: Vice Chair Dave Kring, Treasurer John Fought, Trustee James Shirilla and Trustee Keith A. Pretty.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER MONICA PECK

Monica Peck, librarian and community leader, will provide the commencement address to the class of 2024.

Peck, who graduated from North Central in 2009, is director of the Boyne District Library. In 2022, Peck was named the Public Librarian of the Year by the Michigan Library Association. Four years prior, in 2018, she was named a Rising Star by Wayne State University, where she earned her Master of Library Science degree.

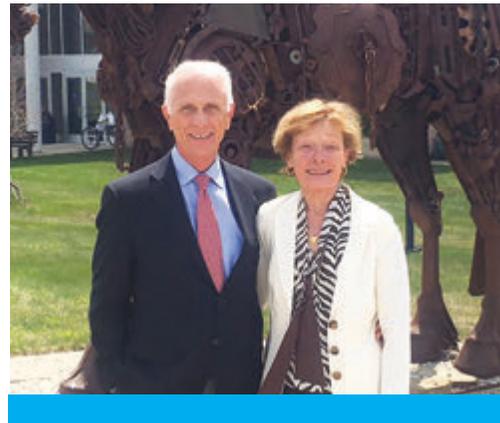
Peck serves as a trustee on the Charlevoix County Community Foundation Board and the Leadership Charlevoix County Board. She also serves on the Boyne City Chamber of Commerce Board and the Otsego County Library Board. She and her husband, Jordan, live in Gaylord and share a blended family with seven children.



## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS PIER AND RENEE BORRA

During the ceremony, college officials will award honorary degrees of Community and Educational Service to Pier and Renee Borra in recognition of their contributions to the healthcare field and to the college.

Donors to North Central since 2009, the Borrass have supported many funding priorities, including the Healthy Investment and Building Tomorrow Together capital campaigns. The Borrass have also supported student success initiatives, technology, and scholarships, including the Borra Nursing Pathway Scholarship. Thanks to their generosity, in 2023, McLaren Northern Michigan opened the Justin A. Borra Behavioral Health Center in Cheboygan to provide mental and behavioral health resources to those in need.



**MISSION** To provide exceptional, accessible, relevant higher education to the benefit of all.

**VISION** To become the premier student-centered college, as partners on the learning journey. *As such, North Central will be recognized for student success and equity, transfer education, workforce development and lifelong learning, energizing the social and economic vitality of the communities it serves.*

**VALUES** Excellence, Integrity, Results, Stewardship, Compassion, Inclusion

# THE MEANING OF HONOR CORDS, MEDALLIONS AND STOLES

The Academic Honor Cord recognizes the student's academic achievement in an associate degree or certificate program.

**Gold and Yale – Highest Distinction, GPA 3.90 - 4.00**

**Gold – High Distinction, GPA 3.70 - 3.89**

**Yale – Distinction, GPA 3.50 - 3.69**

## **STUDENT SENATE – WHITE CORD**

A student-run government organization, Senate allows NCMC students to participate in institutional government by representation on Senate and College committees. Student Senate members assist in planning a variety of extracurricular activities held throughout the year. Student Senate members are identified by the white Student Leadership cord.

## **STUDENT AMBASSADORS – PURPLE CORD**

North Central's Student Ambassador Program provides student-leaders with opportunities to participate in an official capacity at campus events throughout the year. The program brings together students from all areas of the community to enrich and enhance leadership and communication skills, personal growth and professional development, while creating lasting ties with students' future alma mater. Student Ambassadors wear the purple Student Ambassador honor cord.

## **MILITARY SERVICE – RED, WHITE & BLUE CORD**

Graduates who have served in the United States Armed Forces wear the red, white and blue Military Honor cord in recognition of their service to our country.

## **ATHLETICS – SILVER AND PEACOCK CORD**

The NCMC Athletic Department provides positive opportunities for student-athletes to advance their academic, athletic and personal achievements through intercollegiate sports. Graduates who have completed two seasons of eligibility or who have been on the roster for both the Fall and Winter semester of their graduation year wear the silver and peacock Student-Athlete Honor cord.

## **EARLY COLLEGE – THE MEDALLION**

The Early College program allows high school students to receive both a high school diploma and a North Central associate degree simultaneously, graduating after their fifth year of high school. Our Early College partners include Boyne City Public Schools, Cheboygan Area Schools, Gaylord Community Schools, Inland Lakes School District and Public Schools of Petoskey. Early College graduates wear the Early College medallion.

## **PHI THETA KAPPA – GOLD STOLE**

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges while helping them grow as scholars and leaders. PTK provides opportunities for leadership and service, an intellectual climate fostering the exchange of ideas and ideals, lively fellowship for scholars, and stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.

Membership is by invitation only; eligible students must maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA with at least 12 credits completed to be formally inducted into PTK. Members of PTK wear the gold PTK stole.

## **STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION**

In accordance with the mission of the National Student Nurses Association (SNA), the mission of North Central's Student Nurses Association is to organize, represent and mentor North Central students preparing for their initial licensure as registered nurses; to promote the development of skills to be responsible, accountable members of the nursing profession; and to advocate for high-quality health care in a multicultural society. SNA membership is voluntary and open to all nursing students. While all graduating nurses wear the royal blue NCMC Nursing stole, not all are SNA members.

## THE MEANING OF COLORS

The hoods worn by members of the Faculty and Administration provide information about each wearer's academic background. The length of the hood denotes the wearer's degree (bachelor's, master's or doctoral). The color of the lining denotes the school from which the degree was conferred, and the color of the velvet edging denotes the field of learning. Following is a list of colors established by the Intercollegiate Code, which set the standards for academic dress in the United States. Except for revisions in 1932 and 1959, the code has been unchanged since its inception in 1895.

■ MAIZE – <i>Agriculture</i>	■ RUSSET – <i>Forestry</i>	■ DARK BLUE – <i>Philosophy</i>
■ WHITE – <i>Arts, Letters and Humanities</i>	■ MAROON – <i>Home Economics</i>	■ SAGE GREEN – <i>Physical Education</i>
■ DRAB – <i>Business Administration</i>	■ CRIMSON – <i>Journalism</i>	■ PEACOCK BLUE – <i>Public Administration</i>
■ LILAC – <i>Dentistry</i>	■ PURPLE – <i>Law</i>	■ SALMON PINK – <i>Public Health</i>
■ COPPER – <i>Economics</i>	■ LEMON – <i>Library Science</i>	■ GOLD YELLOW – <i>Science</i>
■ LIGHT BLUE – <i>Education</i>	■ GREEN – <i>Medicine</i>	■ CITRON – <i>Social Science</i>
■ ORANGE – <i>Engineering</i>	■ PINK – <i>Music</i>	■ SCARLET – <i>Theology or Divinity</i>
■ BROWN – <i>Fine Arts, Including Architecture</i>	■ APRICOT – <i>Nursing</i>	■ GRAY – <i>Veterinary Science</i>
	■ SILVER GRAY – <i>Oratory</i>	
	■ OLIVE GREEN – <i>Pharmacy</i>	

## THE CEREMONIAL MACE

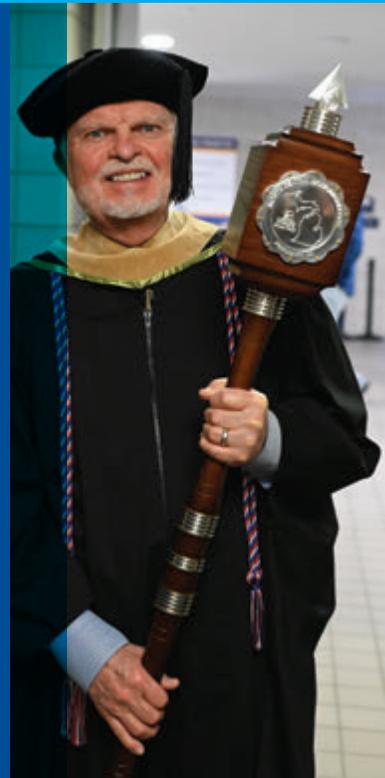
The ceremonial mace, a symbol of leadership and authority, is carried by the senior faculty member at all formal college events and is displayed on the platform during these functions.

North Central's mace was designed by Leon Nash, adjunct art instructor and North Central's director of campus housing, and manufactured with assistance from staff in the College's CNC lab.

Measuring 42" long and weighing 7.5 pounds, the mace is constructed of ash and oak trees, both native to Northern Michigan. Ash was selected because it is known as a traditional handle-making wood, and oak lends stability to the head of the mace.

The "X" design on the bottom of the mace is symbolic of four arrows coming together at a single point, representative of students, faculty, staff and community members from different backgrounds converging at a single destination, North Central Michigan College, for a common purpose: to seek and impart knowledge. At the opposite end of the mace is a guiding arrow with a Flame of Knowledge inside, representing the conclusion of one's journey at North Central and the resulting transfer of knowledge.

The College seal is displayed prominently on one side of the mace head, matching the President's Medallion, which is worn during formal college events. The remaining three sides are blank at present, the College's future chapters yet to be written.



## DEGREES CONFERRED

Certificate of Development

Associate of Arts

Certificate

Associate of General Studies

Associate of Applied Science

Associate of Science



# CONGRATULATIONS!

NORTH CENTRAL  
MICHIGAN COLLEGE

# 2024 GRADUATES

## **CERTIFICATE OF DEVELOPMENT**

### **Basic Emergency Medical Services**

Lydia Helen Hummel

### **Bookkeeping**

Misty Gail Brooks  
Emily Margaret Zmikly

### **Business of Art**

River Lane Holt  
Jade Kathryn Wallace

### **CNC Machinist Technology**

Elijah Joseph Glazier  
Demetrious Donald Mourufas

### **Fire Fighter**

Parker Joseph Monahan

### **Graphic Arts**

Andrew Michael Bootz  
Roy Anthony Cool  
Emily Bea Danks  
Ethan Andrew Gohl  
River Lane Holt

### **Medical Billing and Coding**

Abigail Marlene Dawson  
Sara Ann Padgett

### **New Media**

Ethan Andrew Gohl

### **Office Support Specialist**

Misty Gail Brooks

### **Receptionist**

Misty Gail Brooks  
Alayna Marie Sorget

## **CERTIFICATE**

### **Accounting Assistant**

Misty Gail Brooks \*\*  
Autumn Marie Piotrowski \*\*  
Grace Marie Van Loo

### **Advertising Assistant**

Misty Gail Brooks \*\*

### **Animation**

Victoria Andreina Di Cesare \*\*  
Erick Schmidt

### **Art - Fine Craft**

Abby Madalyn Belski \*\*  
Kristel A Lunning \*\*\*  
Macie Lorraine Sirmons  
Jade Kathryn Wallace \*\*\*

### **Art - Studio Art**

River Lane Holt  
William Weber II \*\*\*

### **Computer-Aided Design**

Liam Michael O'Hare \*

### **Management**

Brynn Christina Backus \*  
Haley Robbins Baldus  
Calei Coon

### **Medical Billing and Coding**

Lorena Irene Phillips \*\*

### **Small Business Management**

Misty Gail Brooks \*\*  
Emily B Danks \*\*  
Danielle Hogrefe

## **ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

### **Accounting**

Elisha Arlene Avery  
Misty Gail Brooks \*\*  
Tiffany Ann Page \*  
Emily Margaret Zmikly

### **Business Management**

Misty Gail Brooks \*\*  
Jessica Ann Causey \*  
Mark Alan Chapman  
Calei Coon  
Karie L Mercer \*\*\*  
Rebekah Lynn Paauew  
Carol Ann Elizabeth Potts  
Ashley Steiner \*\*  
Melissa Jo Tanner  
Robert Wise IV

### **Criminal Justice**

Michael Joseph Anthony  
Benjamin David Gauthier \*

### **Early Childhood Education**

Jordyn Dare Daily  
Caitlyn Ashlei Force  
Valerie Teuthorn Mourufas \*\*  
Jennifer Leah Wruck

### **Law Enforcement**

Matthew Michael Boyer  
Dawson Shelton Brace

### **Marketing**

Misty Gail Brooks \*\*

## **Nursing**

Charles Beck \*\*  
Melissa Marie Brown  
Adelia Grace Cooper  
Katherine Marie Crawford \*\*\*  
Kassidy Brianna Dicus  
Jennifer L Fettis  
Leona Grace Follette  
Tracey Force  
Mackenzie Marie Gouine \*  
Meghan Marie Gray  
Esther Tammy Hartman  
Alyvia Ann Johnson \*  
Camron Patrick Johnson  
Audre Rose Kraus  
Katie Lynn Kurburski  
Jacqueline Anne Luttrell  
Tonia Marleen Marihugh \*  
Tiffani Louise Martin  
Natasha Storm Mullen  
Randi Pettyjohn \*\*\*  
Adrienne Rose Russ \*  
Clara Ruthig \*\*\*  
Wendy Lynn Ruthig \*\*\*  
Lexi Ernestine Seger \*\*\*  
Skyli Kate Shields \*\*  
Kassia Maye Strong

## **Office Administrative Services**

Misty Gail Brooks \*\*

## **Welding**

Maximus Gregory Nelson \*\*\*

## **ASSOCIATE OF ARTS**

Phoenix Gracemarie Backus \*  
Jayna Josiephine Bearss  
Abby Madalyn Belski \*\*  
Sara Reagan Berger \*\*  
Ashley Kate Boyer

Savana Cadarette  
Maggie Irene Chism  
Cooper Cogswell \*  
Victoria Ann Collins \*\*\*  
Autumn Annmarie Conklin  
Jaylen Davison  
Kyle James Delnick \*  
Blake Gene Diamond \*\*\*  
Charlie Dobbelaer \*  
Abigail Anne Donovan  
Jaimasen Victoria Dunstan \*  
Evan Alan Franks  
Lilly Freeman \*\*\*  
Madison Marie Fritcher  
Sophie Patricia Haan \*\*  
Nyomie Leigh Hallenbeck  
Savannah Lindsay Hausler  
Maisy J Heiermann \*\*\*  
Mark Erick Hoover \*\*  
Allison McKenna Huzek \*  
Betsy Irene Jorgensen \*\*  
Emma J Kretzmer  
Misty Lynn Locke  
Natalie Clare Marsh  
James Mason  
Isabel F Messinis \*  
Maggie Jane Nelson \*\*  
Jason Lee Peterson \*\*\*  
Daniel John Powers \*\*  
Nicholas William Salfai  
Mariette Katherine Schantz  
Ella Sue Seelye \*  
William Thomas Stratton  
Grace Marie Van Loo

## **Associate of Arts - Arts**

Claire Katherine Ivie \*\*

## **Associate of Arts - Business**

Zebadiah Eby  
Abigail Bleu Hilligan \*\*

## **Associate of Arts - Communication**

Alyssa Paige Clapperton \*\*  
Morgan Elizabeth Marshall \*

## **Associate of Arts - Criminal Justice**

Omar Gomez  
Amanda Joy Jarvis-Donner  
Hannah Neff

## **Associate of Arts - Early Childhood Education**

Ila Bisson \*  
Rebecca Brown  
Avah Renee Cryderman \*\*  
Jennifer Derenzy  
Harley Kay Dowling  
Shian Erickson \*\*\*  
Kaitlyn Desire Hammerle \*\*\*  
Nicole Marie VanEvery \*\*

## **Associate of Arts - Environmental and Sustainability Studies**

Nathan Babcock  
Michael Gaelen Kendzierski \*\*\*

## **Associate of Arts - Psychology**

Grace Ann Byron  
Marlee Jean Collins  
Ayanna Morgan  
Megan Marie Preston \*\*  
Samantha Swadling \*\*\*

## **Associate of Arts - Social Work**

Lindsay A Hetrick

## ASSOCIATE OF GENERAL STUDIES

Joshua Adim  
Emmalee Susan Antkoviak  
Cameron Dean Arnold  
Brynn Christina Backus \*  
Ethan Maddox Bacon  
Brooklynn D Besteman  
Dominic Christopher Betke  
Amy Marie Bielas \*  
Christopher Eugene Black  
Robert Love Blome  
Benjamin Louis Bollinger  
Brock MacLane Bootz \*  
Maghan Brooks \*  
Renee Burns \*\*\*  
Makenzie Jo Castle  
Emma Louise Cook  
Kayla Cooksey  
Elijah Benjamin Covert \*  
Joseph Patrick Crittenden  
Ronald Charles Cronk \*\*  
Emily Bea Danks \*\*  
Kyley Loretta DeFrancesco  
Katie Lynn DeYoung  
Emmalee Gladys Duncan  
Madison Ann Farver \*\*  
Tyler Joseph Ferguson \*  
Kiersten Jayne Fiel \*\*  
Ashley Marie Gasco  
Jared Joseph Gerrick  
Alicia Jacqueline Glomski \*  
Ethan Andrew Gohl \*\*  
Connor Grebe  
Keegan James Greenacre \*\*\*  
Dominic Greenough  
Mackenzie Hanel  
Jesse Michael Hanson  
Ashlynn Nicole Himebauch  
Raeann Victoria Hingston

River Lane Holt  
Lydia Helen Hummel \*  
Andrew Johnson  
Camron Patrick Johnson  
Hunter Johnson  
Samantha Marie Keiser \*\*\*  
Zachary Keiser  
Amber Lambert  
Tiffani Laslo  
Maya Ann Lent  
Noah Long \*  
Rachel Irene Maendel \*\*\*  
Mary Louise Makarewicz  
Logan Marsh \*\*  
Kaidence Rae Marvin  
Heather Paige McClure  
Griffin Connor McFadden \*\*  
Jessica N McGuinness  
Sadie McGuire \*  
Kira Rose Miller \*\*  
Conner John Morey \*  
Harrison Todd Morgridge  
Ashton Murphy  
Jagger Marcus Nicholls  
Susan E Ormsbee  
James Patrick Patterson  
David Allen Powell \*\*  
Jeffrey Allen Rasch Jr \*  
Erin Rigney \*  
Blake James Root  
Emma Raeann Ross \*  
Joshua Hampton Scott  
Jessica Lee Shampine  
Teigan Marie Shovan  
Kylie Ann Sietman \*  
Shane Theodore Skinner \*  
Julius James Smith Jr  
Madelyn Kai Sobleski  
Joey Staley  
Michael Patrick Lee Stark \*\*

Shawni Clare Thelen  
Katie Jean Thompson  
Christopher Steven Vagts \*\*\*  
Alana Marie VanderMeer  
Airielle Victoria Voorhees  
Eric Jon Wallace \*\*  
Jade Kathryn Wallace \*\*\*  
Chloe Rae Wass  
Zosia Aleksandra Wasylewski \*\*\*  
Zackery Thomas White  
Lily Claire Wieber \*  
Sophie Grace Wieber \*\*  
Katelyn Winter  
Mailie Rew Witthoef  
Shelby Marie Wurst  
Olivia Hope Zimmerman  
Caley Zukowski \*\*\*

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Christopher Alshab  
Matthew Tyler Arman \*\*  
Samantha Nicole Burke \*\*  
Kaylee Nichole Butcher  
Viola Grace Cole \*\*\*  
Ella Jane Day \*\*\*  
Seth Binoir De Villiers  
Ava Elizabeth Genschaw \*\*  
Bianca Isabel Gietzen \*\*\*  
Nicole Hellebuyck \*\*  
Deborah Estelle Hoover \*\*  
Myriah Knudsen  
Emma Lenora Markham \*  
Mary McNabb \*\*  
Sora Eileen Ostrander \*  
Kane Quintin Sacker  
Brooke Marie Uselman \*  
Elliot Charles Yurek

### Associate of Science - Biology

Nathan Andrew Leaver



# CONGRATULATIONS!

You are the newest members of NCMC alumni, joining more than 11,000 graduates who have gone before you and positively impacted our campus and our community, the state and the country.

As you leave North Central today, stay connected with our NCMC Alumni Association so that we might support you throughout your journey and celebrate with you in times of success.



Scan the QR code to stay in touch!



- STAY CONNECTED.
- STAY INVOLVED.
- STAY IN TOUCH.

 [alumni@ncmich.edu](mailto:alumni@ncmich.edu)

