



2025

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.

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.

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



NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE

65TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

May 9, 2025 | 7:00 p.m.

Petoskey Plastics Arena, Student and NCMC Athletic Center

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance, Elgar

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

David Roland Finley, Ph.D., President

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Performed by Zachary Maendel,
NCMC Class of 2025 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

Beth LaForest, Chief of Staff,
Schoolcraft College
A.A., North Central Michigan College
B.S., Lawrence Technological University
MBA, Ferris State University

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

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

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Dan Rasmussen, Board Chairperson

Scott LaDeur, Ph.D.,
Political Science Faculty

Erayna Paquet, MSN,
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 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Pictured on top, from left:

Dan Rasmussen, *Chair*
Chris Etienne, *Vice Chair*
Melissa Keiswetter, *Secretary*

Pictured on bottom, from left:

Jason Kromm
Keith A. Pretty, J.D.
James Shirilla, M.D.
Janelle A. Wozniak, MSN



KEYNOTE SPEAKER BETH LAFOREST

Beth LaForest, chief of staff at Livonia's Schoolcraft College and a proud NCMC alumna, will deliver the commencement address to the Class of 2025.

LaForest brings more than 18 years of experience in higher education leadership. She has worked across multiple areas of community college administration, including facilities management, campus safety, information technology, library services, student housing, strategic planning, finance, and the president's office.

A strong advocate for the life-changing impact of community colleges, LaForest's own educational journey began at North Central, where she earned an associate degree in 2008 before obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology from Lawrence Technological University and a Master of Business Administration from Ferris State University.



HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS STAFFORD SMITH AND DUDLEY MARVIN

During the ceremony, college officials will award honorary degrees of Community Service to Stafford Smith and Dudley Marvin, two visionary leaders whose dedication to hospitality, business, and community has shaped the fabric of Northern Michigan.

Stafford Smith is a pioneer in Michigan's hospitality industry. Originally from Albion, Michigan, Smith's deep connection to Northern Michigan began at an early age, with summers spent in Petoskey. After graduating from Northwestern University's School of Management in 1960, he purchased the Bay View Inn in 1961, launching what would become Stafford's Hospitality, a legacy that grew to include The Pier Restaurant, The Weathervane Restaurant, The Perry Hotel, The Gallery, and Crooked River Lodge. Smith's impact extends beyond business; his leadership has helped shape tourism and economic development throughout the region.



Dudley Marvin has been a cornerstone of Stafford's Hospitality for more than five decades. A graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Business Management, Marvin's career took him from military service in the U.S. Naval Reserve, including active duty in Vietnam, to a leadership role in Michigan's hospitality industry.

He joined Stafford's team in 1964, becoming president of Stafford's Hospitality, Inc. in 1980 and guided the company's operations until his retirement in 2010. Even in retirement, he remained an integral advisor and legal consultant for the corporation.

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, Gaylord Community Schools, the Public Schools of Petoskey, Cheboygan Area Schools and Inland Lakes School District. 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

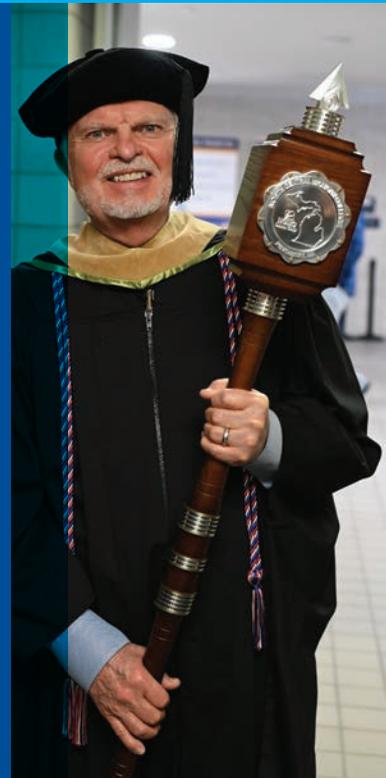
The ceremonial mace, a symbol of leadership and authority, is carried by the senior faculty member at all formal college events and is displayed on the platform during these functions.

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!

2025 GRADUATES

CERTIFICATE OF DEVELOPMENT

Basic Emergency Medical Services

Pauline Elizabeth Campbell
Michael Peter Connaughton
Destiny May Holm

Bookkeeping

Nicole Leist

CNC Machinist Technology

Hudson Charles Decker
Joseph Ivyl Puzio

Fire Fighter

Michael Peter Connaughton

Graphic Arts

Nicholas James Pratt

New Media

Megan Elisabeth Johnson

CERTIFICATE

Accounting Assistant

Nicole Leist **

Advertising Assistant

Megan Elisabeth Johnson ***

Animation

Kirsten Janell Aho ***
Arlo David Krino ***

Computer-Aided Design

Meghan Marie Harmon
Edward R LaPointe

Fine Craft

Isabella Jessick **

Management

Haley Robbins Baldus

Practical Nursing

Cami Campbell
Nicole Lee Cooper
John Paul Vergara Coopersmith *
Jeremy A Daniel
Elizabeth Marie Kinney ***
Theresa Love
Tracey Lupu
Roxanne Gege Lee
Pettyjohn-Wenn
Shannon Lynn St Clair *
Shelby Marie Wurst

Medical Billing and Coding

Bonnie Ann Thompson

Small Business Management

Ella J Johnson *

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Accounting

Danele Bosker ***
Mara J Carusi ***

Business Management

Arielle Jasmine Decker
Ashley Harwell
Emma Jane Hudson
Joseph Stephen Klonowski
Sierra Lynn Kruzel
Kristi Lin Smith
Bianca Marie Valentine

Computer Information Systems

Brylen Vincent Brooks
Kenneth Edward Page ***
Zackary David James Paulson
Zachary Jacob Wagner **

Criminal Justice

Alexis Kay Danforth
Arianna Rose Phillips

Digital Art & Design

Emily Margaret Dawson ***

Early Childhood Education

Avah Renee Cryderman *
Mikaela Maria Tollini
Mya Katherine Tremble
Camrey Walker

Emergency Medical Services/ Paramedic

Adrian John Brooks
Nathan Iverson Moyer
Tracee A Smith

Fire Science with Basic Fire Academy

Donald Towns

Marketing

Ella J Johnson *
Megan Charmel Stewart ***

Nursing

Emily Erin Albrecht *
Brit Lynn Averill **
Rebecca Barkley ***
Renee Bearss *
Casey Jean Bradley

Michael David Brown
Bryn Elaine Capelle
Kimberly Ann Crain ***
Nicole Grace DeYoung ***
Kacie Lynn Gokee ***
Rachel Lynn Grindle *
Lauren Alyssa Hudson
Heather M Hypes
Ryin Aislinn Johnston *
Shari-Ann Danielle Jonas-Corney
Savannah Faith Leaver
Amy L Mackarevitz
Tayler Jayne Malone *
Aaron Ely Maltby
Reva Lynn Rickley
Kylie Ann Sietman *

Office Administrative Services

Julie Hips ***
Christian Michael Pelcher

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Heather Paige Anthony
Molly Jane Arthur *
Kaylee Christine Berkshire ***
Zachary Thomas Borgula ***
Brooke Adison Bozzer **
Olivia Lynn Brakel **
Elizabethe Harper Carpenter ***
Mya Nichole Collino **
McKenzie Maddison Cooper
Lindsey Margaret Cross
Madeline Delaney Daniel ***
Brea Emily Domke
Megan Elizabeth Dubie ***
Camille Renee Eads **
Grace Frieda Ewing **
Evan Alan Franks
Grace Kathryn Goddard
Isabella Marie Gray *
Cassidy Marie Hill
Haley Johnson
Jane Isabella Kelly

Mckenzie Marilyn Klein
Miranda Ruth Knight
Greer J LaCroix
Martin Thomas Ralph Lougen *
Truman David Maher **
Emily Elaine Maynard
Delaney Julie Ann McBee
Isabel F Messinis
Eliana Grace Michael ***
Christina Rose Midyett *
James David Mobley
Maple Rose Nowak **
Jessica Rene' Pataky **
Ethan Patrick Pflug *
Kelan James Pletcher **
Ryan William Reynolds **
Clara Riker
Layla Finae Senior **
Cassie Lynn Serven
Lydia Autumn Signorello ***
Saige Marie Slough ***
Callie Jayne Smith
Travis Robert Snow
Jackson William Taylor
Rian Theriault
Trinity Marie Thompson **
Lucille Milan Uy ***
Punipua Lagi Joneson Vitolio ***
Valarie Willard
Genevieve Sparrow Willoughby ***
Samantha Jean Wodek **
Abigail Louise Woelfert *

Associate of Arts - Business

Cameron Scott Fitzpatrick
Aiden Joseph Hall
Zachary Jacob Maendel *
Ethan Douglas Poole **
Jude Joseph Proctor

Associate of Arts - Communication

Grayson Taylor Byron

Sarah Jane Hartley ***
Keyton Mateo Spencer **

Associate of Arts - Early Childhood Education

Sophia Charmaine Henry **
Jordan Elizabeth Larson ***
Angie Marie Moulton
Adrian Ortiz ***
Emma Roberts **

Associate of Arts - Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Alison Danielle Cartwright

Associate of Arts - Psychology

Alexandra Elliott *
Emily Jordan Engel ***
Breanna Jane Marguerite Jewell **
Lily Yvette Neuman
Abigail Rei Serino
Lacy Shugar
Nevaeh Ann-Monae Wells **

Associate of Arts - Social Work

Cheyenne Nicole Hilt
Robin Krussell
Joanna Melton-Paquet
Marlee Purcey
Rose Sisson *
Jasmine Marie Washburn
Jordan Amy White **

ASSOCIATE OF GENERAL STUDIES

Jack Edward Lee Armstrong **
Justin Aytes *
Remington Dane Barnadyn
Skylar Renee Barnett
Jennifer Bednar ***
Ashlyn Berg
Alec Biddinger

Payton Miranda Boguth
Sandra Jeanne Butler
Mitchell John Caron **
Cameron Chaxia Changsonglue
Grace Chapman **
Ryann Clancy
Ashley Clarke *
Jenna Nicole Clarkson
Victoria Collins
Ava Mae Collins
Autumn Annmarie Conklin
Michael Peter Connaughton
Carter Adam Cook
Jeysen Zavala Coria
McKenna Archelle Courterier
Maria Lynn Crawford **
Madilyn Marie Crull ***
Emma Grace Darnell
Emily Rose Davison **
Hudson Charles Decker ***
Elyssa Kaytlin Dehmel
Rachel Iliene Descamps
Carsen Anthony Dittmar
Jacob David Duncan *
Jayden Ensign
Claire Morgan Feagan *
Kiersten Jayne Fiel
Caroline Pearl Floyd **
Michaela Ford
Caleb Gregory Godwin **
Katrina Gomez
Ayrliia Emily-Jo Goosman
Madison Elaine Greer
Danika Gunderson
Scott Joshua Haley
McKenna Lynn Hall
Samuel Hansz
Peter John Hasse
Quentin Robert Hillaker *
Casey David Hughey

Jerri Ann Julian
Parker William Kandt
Kellie Elizabeth Kayser
Isabelle Jean Ketchum **
Krystal Kiogima
Benjamin Paul Knott *
Elly Lynn Kuras
Keegan Thomas LaBlance
Edward R LaPointe
Shayla Marie LaVigne
Lydia Ledy **
Jake Travis Linaker
Kortney Lynn Little
Veronica Lynn Danks Lozen **
Angelique Marie Lozon **
Kristol A Lunning ***
Alicia Marie Manzano
Molly Anne Miller
Nathan Iverson Moyer
Ashton Murphy
Brandon Le Nguyen **
Noah Doe Nimphe
Trevor John Noa
Grace Katherine O'Brien
Morgan Elise O'Rourke
Joseph Ivyl Puzio ***
Rudy Randazzo
Claire Olivia Ranney
Simon John Rau
Jackson Lee Raymond
Colt Michael Reid *
Kassi Lee Richard
Marah Diane Roberts
Brittany Lynn Rondo
Rachael Ann Rousseau *
Danielle Paris Runyan
Lillian Grace Sabin
Riley L Salzano ***
Sophia Marie Schneider
Amy Marie Slater **

Delaney Smith
Jack Snyder
Ethan Robert St Clair
Brooke Isabelle Stafford *
McKenzie Dawn Vanderveer
Emma A Watson **
Dominik Troy Weaver-Weidlich
Jenna Mae Webber
Ava Marie Wendel **
Jared Cole Wilcome
Clare Marie Zielinski
Katherine Zybke

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Ella Rosemarie Birkmeier ***
Joseph Alan Briones *
Maye Grant Burns
Harvey Jackson Marley Calloway ***
Victor Samuel Croff
Katherine Lindsey Cunningham
Alivia Mary Jane Eggleston **
Zoe Marie Hardy **
Claire Katherine Howard **
Lucy Rosemarie Johnson ***
Caleb Nicholas Knickerbocker ***
Dylan Joseph LaHaie
Brittany Monet Matelski
Nissa A Monforton *
Emileigh Patricia Schlappi
Lillian Rose Schoenborn ***
Thomas James Skinner **
Nathaniel Owen Snyder
Grace Elizabeth Spalding ***
Erica Taglauer
Brooke Marie Uselman

**Associate of Science - Medical
and Health Sciences**
Zachary Michael Mason



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

