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CLASS OF  
**2025**  
COMMENCEMENT  
C E R E M O N Y

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East Campus

Illinois National Guard Armory  
Kewanee, Illinois  
Friday, May 16, 2025

## On Academic Regalia

On at least one solemn occasion during the academic calendar – Spring Commencement – the faculty of the college publicly display their full academic regalia and participate in the ritual of a processional and recessional from the commencement ceremony. The purposes of commencement are well-known, but the reasons for the peculiar dress of the celebrants and the order of the procession are often as confusing to the audience as they are, in fact, to the faculty. This note may help to explain academic costumes.

Today's academics are descendants of clerical schoolmen in the universities of medieval Europe. Like clergy, members of the bench and bar, and other learned professionals, the medieval scholar clothed himself in heavy robes to keep out the draft from unheated, windowless buildings. Like all members of medieval society, faculty enjoyed the visible symbols of their rank. These outward signs of accomplishment and authority were tailored into the robes. The need for such voluminous garments to keep the scholar from catching a cold is long past but the use of them to symbolize the dignity of the profession remains.

Caps and gowns worn by our faculty are black. Black was the color adopted by mutual agreement among American colleges and universities at the end of the 19th century. In Europe, each university has its own distinctive gowns, varying in color and cut with each institution. A European commencement is a far more colorful occasion than its American counterpart.

There are four basic academic degrees: the associate degree, the baccalaureate or bachelor's degree, the master's degree and the doctorate. Each has a special robe. The associate and bachelor's gowns are trim, neat and unadorned, as befits apprentices. The master's gown is still simple, but fuller, with a hood draped from the shoulders down the back. Once used to keep the shaved heads of medieval clerks from freezing, the hood now is solely a badge of degree of scholarly achievement. The master's hood is small and narrow, but displays the colors of the institution that awarded the degree. The doctorate robe has a generous cut, is faced with velvet, and emblazoned with velvet stripes on the ample sleeves. Most of the velvet facings and chevrons or stripes are black, but some are other colors. According to personal taste, doctors may display the color of their doctoral degree on their sleeves and facings: for example; royal blue for philosophy, green for medicine, purple for law, scarlet for theology. The doctor's hood is lined in satin with the colors of the degree itself. All academic costumes include the square cap called a mortarboard. The doctor's tassels may be either black or gold. Tassels of all other degrees may be black or the colors of the college or department from which the student graduated or is graduating.

Stage party members wearing black, gold and red hoods are members of the Black Hawk College Board of Trustees. Their hoods do not represent academic rank; they indicate the trustees' public service through their governance of the local college district. The three colors represent an integration of the colors of the college's Quad-Cities Campus and East Campus.

# Commencement Program

**Processional** ..... Nathanael Hayford, *Pianist*  
*BHC student*

*(The audience will rise when the procession enters the gym  
and will remain standing until after the Moment of Silence.)*

## Academic Procession

The Honor Marshals ..... Kyrsten Hill  
Krishna Patel  
Makenna Walker

Posting of Colors ..... U.S. Army Recruiting Station  
*Davenport, IA*

**National Anthem**..... “The Star Spangled Banner”  
Arranged by John Philip Sousa  
Nathanael Hayford, *Pianist* & Lauren Best, *Soloist*  
*Black Hawk College students*

## Moment of Silence

**Professors Emeriti Presentation** ..... Dr. Jeremy L. Thomas  
*President, Black Hawk College*  
Fritz W. Larsen  
*Board Chair, Black Hawk College*

**Student Remarks** ..... Blair Snyder  
*President, East Campus Student Government Association*

**Inspiring Legacy Award** ..... Dr. Jeremy L. Thomas  
*President, Black Hawk College*

**Presentation of the Class of 2025** ..... Torria Norman  
*Interim Vice President for Instruction*

## Awarding of Certificates

**and Conferring of Degrees** ..... Dr. Jeremy L. Thomas  
*President, Black Hawk College*  
Andrew Mansheim  
*Associate Professor*  
*President, East Campus Faculty Senate*

**Recessional** ..... Nathanael Hayford, *Pianist*

*(The audience will rise and remain standing in place  
until the recession has exited the gymnasium.)*

***A sign language interpreter will be on the right-hand side of the stage.***



### **The Black Hawk College Seal**

The official college seal was adopted in May 1969. It incorporates some of the oldest symbols known. The “Y,” or fork, is a key sign symbolizing the up reaching spirit, the striving of being. Above the key sign is the flame which represents knowledge, specifically the knowledge of liberal arts and sciences programs. The old chemical sign at right is for basic metals, which represents vocational and technical education. On the left is the philosopher’s sign which describes the nature of human intellect and symbolizes the active intellect present in adults who continue their education. The enclosing circle represents the continuing circle of education. The Latin phrase, Collegium Pro Populo, identifies Black Hawk as the College for the People.

**ADVANCED LARGE ANIMAL  
TECHNICIAN**

Jade Montana Newhallen, Henry  
Jazmine D. Ralston, Resaca, GA  
Mackenzie Eden Washburn, Orion

**AGRICULTURE MECHANICS**

David Chavez, Kewanee  
Jacob Edward Johnson, Cambridge

**AIR CONDITIONING SPECIALIST**

Trevor William Keogh, Colona

**ANIMAL SCIENCE**

Sandra Paveli Avila, Viola  
Melana Carly Followwill, Bloomfield, IA  
Wyatt Brown Harby, Illinois City  
Grace Culley Lloyd, Aledo  
Sarah Elizabeth Lloyd, Aledo  
James Michael Tibbits, Mineral Point, WI  
Chase Everett Wright, Bradford  
Jesse Lee Wright, Bradford  
Abigail Katherine Zaviska, Thief River Falls, MN

**AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR**

Trevor William Keogh, Colona

**BASIC NURSE ASSISTANT  
TRAINING PROGRAM**

- Joshua Wayne Anderson, Geneseo
- Kimora M. Barnwell, Wyoming
- Marley Jane Cherry, Geneseo
- Victoria Jo Conner, Galva
- Abby Jane Crockett, Galva
- Ellie Kate Doubet, Cambridge
- Emma Jean Farmer, Galva
- Valeria Shay Gurrula-Gamez, Alpha
- Tamia Renea Jorgiana Howell, Kewanee
- Lily Erika Johnson, Geneseo
- Stardeja Louise Jordan, Kewanee
- Kimberly Ilene Kerg, Kewanee
- Alejandra Martinez, Kewanee
- Annalise Leona-Marie Maxwell, Geneseo

Larissa Merica Meyer, Kewanee  
Virginia Ochoa Ramos, Kewanee  
Jennifer Jo Parsons, Geneseo  
Addison Lynn Snodgrass, Geneseo  
Lillian Grace Taylor, Colona  
Lilly Mercedes Thompson, Woodhull  
Taylor Mae VanWinkle, Neponset  
Faith Raelyn VerKruyse, Annawan  
Christieona M. Williams, Kewanee

**BEEF PRODUCTION**

Sandra Paveli Avila, Viola  
Melana Carly Followwill, Bloomfield, IA  
Wyatt Brown Harby, Illinois City  
Grace Culley Lloyd, Aledo  
Sarah Elizabeth Lloyd, Aledo  
James Micheal Tibbits, Mineral Point, WI  
Chase Everett Wright, Bradford  
Jesse Lee Wright, Bradford  
Abigail Katherine Zaviska, Thief River Falls, MN

**BRAKE SPECIALIST**

Trevor William Keogh, Colona

**CNC PRODUCTION OPERATOR**

Joseph Edward Venneberg, Colona

**GAS METAL ARC WELDING**

Cole Robert Baulch, Galva  
Noah Michael Berry, Kewanee  
Jacob Dale Conrad, Galva  
Chet Dean Gillespie, Toulon  
Cyrus Thompson Lilly, Galva  
Julian Quintero, Kewanee  
Zebulon Paul Rashid, Neponset

**HORSE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY**

Courtney Jane Benter, Bryant, IN  
Calen M. Braden, Lake Geneva WI  
Christina Marie Francis, Turbotville, PA  
Emily Nicole Jessen, Decatur, AR  
Breanna Nichole Lafary, Ellisville  
Ana Marie Leu, Camanche, IA

Gabrielle Marie Olson, Viroqua, WI  
Emily Anne Simmons, Lafayette, IN  
Kayla Alexis Simpson, Geneseo  
Anna Marie Taylor, Sherrard  
Halle Nicole Tindall, Lewistown  
Hannah Renee Wheeler, Ottawa

**SHIELDED METAL ARC  
WELDING**

Julian Quintero, Kewanee

**SWINE PRODUCTION**

Sandra Paveli Avila, Viola  
Melana Carly Followwill, Bloomfield, IA  
Wyatt Brown Harby, Illinois City  
Grace Culley Lloyd, Aledo  
Sarah Elizabeth Lloyd, Aledo  
James Michael Tibbits, Mineral Point, WI  
Chase Everett Wright, Bradford  
Jesse Lee Wright, Bradford  
Abigail Katherine Zaviska, Thief River Falls, MN

**VETERINARY ASSISTING**

Naisha Lorein Colombani Gonzalez, Kewanee  
Rozalynn C. Courtney, Alexis  
Makenna Reann Johnson, Lewistown  
\* Patricia Ann Koga, Galva  
Jaden Elizabeth Wilson, Galva

**WELDING**

Julian Quintero, Kewanee

**WHEEL ALIGNMENT/  
SUSPENSION**

Trevor William Keogh, Colona

**AGRI-BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

Sandra Paveli Avila, Viola  
Benjamin Robert Dahl, Walnut  
Melana Carly Followwill, Bloomfield, IA  
Wyatt Brown Harby, Illinois City  
William John Hoben, Adel, IA  
Blake David Russell LeFevre, Rock Falls  
Grace Culley Lloyd, Aledo

Sarah Elizabeth Lloyd, Aledo  
Teagan Kay Morley, Springfield  
Rebecca Lee Potter, Muscatine, IA  
Brik Alexander Rediger, Wyanet  
James Michael Tibbits, Mineral Point, WI  
Chase Everett Wright, Bradford  
Jesse Lee Wright, Bradford  
Abigail Katherine Zaviska, Thief River Falls, MN

**AGRICULTURE MECHANICS  
TECHNOLOGY**

Jacob Edward Johnson, Cambridge

## ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

Class of 2025

### AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Sandra Paveli Avila, Viola  
Mason Christopher Carnes, Biggsville  
Maxwell L. Eaton, Mt. Carroll  
Melana Carly Followwill, Bloomfield, IA  
Wyatt Brown Harby, Illinois City  
Blake David Russell LeFevre, Rock Falls  
Grace Culley Lloyd, Aledo  
Sarah Elizabeth Lloyd, Aledo  
Rebecca Lee Potter, Muscatine, IA  
Brik Alexander Rediger, Wyanet  
Chase Everett Wright, Bradford  
Jesse Lee Wright, Bradford  
Evelyn Rose Young, East Moline  
Abigail Katherine Zaviska, Thief River Falls, MN

### AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR TECHNOLOGY

Trevor William Keogh, Colona  
David Ocampo, Kewanee

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

• Mariyam Barikzay, Rock Island  
Jennifer Lynn Lucas, Kewanee

### EQUESTRIAN SCIENCE

Courtney Jane Benter, Bryant, IN  
Calen M. Braden, Lake Geneva, WI  
Samantha Addison Colwell, Chillicothe  
Christina Marie Francis, Turbotville, PA  
Emily Nicole Jessen, Decatur, AR  
Breanna Nichole Lafary, Ellisville  
Mackensie Lynn Lennartz, Sycamore  
Ana Marie Leu, Camanche, IA  
Gabrielle Marie Olson, Viroqua, WI  
Emily Anne Simmons, Lafayette, IN  
Kayla Alexis Simpson, Geneseo  
Halle Nicole Tindall, Lewistown  
Sadie Kay Wilson, McHenry

### HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Rebecca Lee Sedlacek, Sheffield

### HORSE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

Courtney Jane Benter, Bryant, IN  
Christina Marie Francis, Turbotville, PA  
Emily Nicole Jessen, Decatur, AR  
Breanna Nichole Lafary, Ellisville  
Ana Marie Leu, Camanche, IA  
Gabrielle Marie Olson, Viroqua, WI  
Emily Anne Simmons, Lafayette, IN  
Kayla Alexis Simpson, Geneseo  
Anna Marie Taylor, Sherrard  
Halle Nicole Tindall, Lewistown  
Hannah Renee Wheeler, Ottawa

### VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

Alanna Marie Gann, Carthage  
Rene Cynthia Johnson, Galesburg  
Jade Montana Newhalfen, Henry  
Mikayla Nicole Oppel, Knoxville  
Kaytlin Nichole Pearl, Toulon  
Jasmine D. Dalston, Resaca, GA  
Elyse Ann Thurman, New Windsor  
Mackinzie Eden Washburn, Orion

## ASSOCIATE IN ARTS

Class of 2025

•• Lillia Rene Atteberry, Bradford  
• Ren Bodnar, Cambridge  
Abby Margaret Cash, Yates City  
• Jace Raymond Claves, Kewanee  
••• Ally Gene Cytrych, Polo  
Alexis Marie Echelberger, Kewanee  
•• Piper Mae Haar, Woodhull  
Heather Ann Hamilton, Wyoming  
Sarah Noelle Hardy, Wyoming  
Mercedes Marie Hasbrook, Neponset  
Violet Dawn Hodgson, Colona

• Michaela Ann Hudson, Galva  
Terrence M. Huggins, Kewanee  
•• Emily Lynn Hurst, Toulon  
Klara Raye Leach, Lexington, IN  
Cameron Lee Smith Lillie, Wyanet  
Joseph A. McValley, Sheffield  
Makayla Ann Park, Kewanee  
Lily Esther Passno, Sherrard  
•• Petra Marie Petty, Kewanee  
Jake Lee Pinnick, Kewanee  
Peyton Elizabeth Podmolik, Pella, IA

• Kyle Alexander Post, Kewanee  
Julian Quintero, Kewanee  
Brooklynn Rae Reynolds, Rock Falls  
• Nathan Brewett Roller, Kewanee  
•••• Will Joseph Rumbold, Galva  
Amber Faye Spaniel, Kewanee  
McKenzie Lee Stadtmiller, Dayton, PA  
Haily Marie Vance, Annawan  
• Jesse Philip Wagner, Kewanee  
Paige Danielle Wexell, Galva  
+ Kali Nicole Yelm, Galva

## ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

Class of 2025

Geraldine Ahearn, Kewanee  
Aaron Andrew Amick, Roanoke, IN  
+ Lauren Ashley Best, Wyoming  
Shelton Scott Biddle, Aledo  
Matthew Christopher Blackburn,  
Columbia City, IN  
Blaze Walker Cozart, Zephyr, TX  
Abigail Grace DeSchepper, Kewanee  
Matthew Morrell Ferrell, Quitman, GA  
Laney Paige Harryman, Tuttle, OK  
Carter Daniel Hoge, Good Hope  
• Dillon Michael Horrie, Kewanee  
Isaac Matthew Johnson, Kewanee

Justin Ross Johnson, Woodhull  
+ Cheyanne Rebecca Judd, Cortland  
Karley Nicole Kramer, Bath  
+ Amber Gayle Long, Blairsville, PA  
• Cassidy Elizabeth Lynes, Kewanee  
Hannah Louise Miller, Clinton  
• Taylor Elise Pace, Cambridge  
Quentin Micheal Raver, Kewanee  
Olivia Grace Richardson, Connersville, IN  
Robert Adrian Rogers, Kendallville, IN  
Hayden Dale Schroeder, Zephyr, TX  
•• Alexis Nicole Shaw, Canton  
•••• Kailey Ann Smith, Wyoming

• Blair Elora Snyder, La Fayette  
Caleigh Marie Stanley, Kewanee  
•• Haley Thorndyke, Avon  
Kayla Marie Vandenberg, West Lafayette, IN  
Marii Dawn Walsh, Bradford

## Graduation Honors

**Summa Cum Laude graduates are identified by a gold honor cord.**

*(60 hours at Black Hawk College and a 3.95 GPA or higher)*

**Magna Cum Laude graduates are identified by a white honor cord.**

*(45 hours at Black Hawk College and a 3.85 GPA or higher)*

**Cum Laude graduates are identified by a red honor cord.**

*(30 hours at Black Hawk College and a 3.75 GPA or higher)*

- Alpha Beta Gamma, International Business Honor Society  
*Alpha Beta Gamma graduates may be identified by a blue stole with Greek letters or a blue stole with emblem and Greek letters.*
- \* Delta Alpha Pi, International Honor Society for Students with Disabilities  
*Delta Alpha Pi graduates may be identified by a royal blue and gold cord.*
- Phi Theta Kappa, Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges  
*Phi Theta Kappa graduates may be identified by double blue and gold cords and/or gold stole.*
- ▲ Psi Beta, National Honor Society in Psychology for Community and Junior Colleges  
*Psi Beta graduates may be identified by gold cords with blue and gold tassels.*
- ❖ Sigma Kappa Delta, the English Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges  
*Sigma Kappa Delta graduates may be identified by green and yellow cords.*
- ✚ Distinguished Academic All-American – National Horse Judging Team  
*These graduates are identified by the National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association as being in the Top 10 overall at the national level and must have a 3.8 GPA.*
- ✚ Academic All-American – National Horse Judging Team  
*These graduates are identified by the National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association as being in the Top 10 overall at the national level and must have a 3.5-3.79 GPA.*
- ☆ Academic All-American – National Horse Show 1st Team  
*These graduates are identified by participating at the national level in at least two shows and achieving a 3.8 or higher GPA.*
- ▶ Academic All-American – National Horse Show 2nd Team  
*These graduates are identified by participating at the national level in at least two shows and achieving a 3.5 or higher GPA.*
- Academic All-American – Livestock Judging Team
- ✘ Military Service  
*Military service members honorably discharged or currently serving may be identified by a red, white and blue honor cord.*
- ⊛ Black Hawk College Honors Program  
*These graduates are identified by a gold, black and white cord.*
- ⊕ Founders' Scholars  
*These graduates are recognized for achieving the criteria identified by the East Campus Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty.*

# Black Hawk College

## East Campus Faculty 2024-2025

### PROFESSORS

Blake D. Bloomberg, Ph.D.  
Aaron J. Callahan, B.S.  
Drew L. Cotton, M.S.  
Brian S. Glaser, M.A.  
Jason S. Grice, A.A.S.  
Darcy C. Jeffries, M.B.A.  
Katie M. Johnson, M.S.  
Andrew C. Larson, M.S.  
Paul A. Lockard, Ph.D.  
Kenneth J. Nickels, M.S.  
Katie A. Rushing-Anderson, M.S.  
Gary L. Werkheiser, B.S.  
Jodee E. Werkheiser, M.S.  
Jenni L. Wessel-Fields, M.S.

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Andrew D. Mansheim, M.S.  
Sarah A. Nelson, M.A.  
Isaac J. Stewart, M.S.

### ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

Rebekah E. Irish, B.S.  
Janet M. Johnson, C.V.T.  
Merriam B. Jolly, M.A.  
Greg M. Jurgenson, C.V.T.  
Robin McVey, M.S.  
Jacob A. Winters, M.S.

### INSTRUCTORS

Patrick D. Ericson, A.W.S.  
Olivia Henning, B.S.  
David Hull  
Tyler Hynes, A.A.S.  
Colleen A. Lewis, D.V.M.  
Leah C. Michel, A.A.S.  
Georgjean L. Pitsoulakis, M.A.  
Cole R. Wright, M.S.

### ADJUNCT FACULTY

Thomas Akers  
Claudia C. Alonzo  
Amanda M. Attig  
Christina N. Beauchamp  
Stephanie Belowske  
Kyle E. Bess  
Deanna Brossman  
Kindra C. Callahan  
Lora Carmichael  
Scott T. Christensen  
Vicki S. Darwin  
Jon DeBord  
Jacob Doan  
Charley J. Eads  
Matthew Furlong  
Jennifer Grebner  
Haley M. Gruber  
Lyndsey Haars  
Jay M. Hagaman  
Ann Hank  
John T. Hartman  
Aaron J. Heartt  
Tara Hewitt  
Dan E. Hoge  
Jilian Huber  
Jessica Hynes  
Kenneth Kuehn  
Tricia L. Lay  
Hannah J. Libby  
Brandon Livingston  
Amy Miler  
Susan Raley  
Alexis Ruemaker  
Robert Stone  
Trenton J. Taber  
Amanda Tidwell  
Jeremy Trill  
Kayla Westfall  
Dustin Wheelhouse  
Taylor M. Wilkinson

## Board of Trustees

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Mark W. Carlson, *Moline*  
David L. Dyer, *Galva*  
Christian H. Jackson, *Geneseo*  
Jeffrey M. Swan, *Colona*  
Amber Schlue, *Silvis, Student Trustee, 2024-2025*  
Olivia J. Shike, *Kewanee, Student Trustee, 2025-2026*

## Executive Administration

Jeremy L. Thomas, Ed.D., *President*  
Richard G. Bush, Ph.D., *Associate Vice President for Adult, Continuing and Workforce Education*  
Shawn A. Cisna, M.A., *Chief of Police*  
Barb A. Courville, B.S., *Associate Dean of Adult and Continuing Education*  
Sandra J. Cox, B.A., *Manager of Administrative Systems and Co-Chief Information Officer*  
Steven J. Frommelt, M.B.A., *Executive Vice President (CFO)*  
Kimberly D. Goodley, M.B.A., *Associate Vice President of External Relations and Executive Director, Black Hawk East College Foundation*  
Zenaida Landeros, E.M.N.A., *Executive Director, Black Hawk College Foundation*  
Vincent C. Luley, B.S./B.M., *Director of Human Resources*  
Kathleen M. Malcolm, M.S.W., *Executive Director of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness*  
Torria J.J. Norman, *Interim Vice President for Instruction*  
James S. Siegel, Ph.D., *Vice President for Student Services*  
Ryan E. White, B.A., *IT Systems Manager and Co-Chief Information Officer*

## Deans

Heather F.W. Bjorgan, M.A., M.B.A., *Dean for Student Success*  
John W. Castree, M.A., *Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences*  
Karima T. Gahagan, M.A., *Dean of Enrollment Services*  
Daniel C. Marvin, Ph.D., *Dean of Career Programs*  
Marta E. Urdaneta, Ph.D., *Dean of Health Sciences*

## Black Hawk East College Foundation Board of Directors

Joe Orwig, <i>Chair</i>	Bruce Dennison	<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>
Brandon Hall, <i>Vice Chair/ ABCA Representative</i>	Jolene Efnor	David Dyer, <i>Trustee Representative</i>
Doug Parrott, <i>Treasurer</i>	Jon Looney	Dr. Jeremy Thomas, <i>President</i>
Ray Jacobs, <i>Secretary</i>	Dave Rylander	Kim Goodley, <i>Executive Director</i>
Steve Becker	Blair Snyder, <i>Student Government Association Representative</i>	
Clint Block		
Cat Broady, <i>Staff Representative</i>	Dr. Kim Stevens	




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Students, faculty and staff at Black Hawk College participate in a variety of activities designed to assess and improve student learning and to bring about institutional change. Examples of such activities may include placement testing, surveys, collecting random samples of student work, exit testing, and portfolio evaluation.

If you need accommodations, contact Disability Resources & Access at 309-796-5900 or [accessqc@bhc.edu](mailto:accessqc@bhc.edu) at least 5 business days in advance.

31236KM04/25



**East Campus**  
26230 Black Hawk Road  
Galva, Illinois