

# HERZING UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT



Friday, May 16th<sup>h</sup> 2025, 11:30AM ET

John S. Knight Center  
Akron, OH

# Commencement Ceremony

~ Processional ~

**Welcome &  
Introduction**

**Bill Cassidy**  
Regional Director of Operations

**Student of the Year  
Award**

**Tami White**  
Associate of Applied Science in  
Medical Office Administration

**Commencement  
Speaker**

**Judge David Hamilton**  
Administrative/Presiding Judge

**Conferring of  
Diplomas**

**Stephanie Newman**  
Director of Campus Operations

**Hooding of Master  
& Doctoral Candidates**

**Renée Herzing and Stephanie  
Newman**  
University President and Director  
of Campus Operations

**Distinguished Alumni  
Award and Alumni Pledge**

**Heather Evans**  
Associate of Science in Nursing,  
2008

**Charge to Graduates  
& Closing Remarks**

**Renée Herzing**  
University President

~ Recessional ~

# Celebrating 60 Years of Herzing

## A Legacy of Learning: Herzing University Turns 60

For six decades, Herzing University has been at the forefront of career-focused education. Founded in 1965 by Henry and Suzanne Herzing, and now led by their daughter, President Renée Herzing, we've grown from a single computer training institute to a respected, multi-campus institution with 11 campuses across eight states offering a wide range of academic programs, as well as our online campus and programming.

As we commemorate our 60th anniversary with over 50,000 graduates, Herzing University remains dedicated to fostering long-term career success in a caring learning environment. We continue to adapt and innovate, ensuring our students are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow's workforce. Join us in celebrating 60 years of transforming lives through education, and discover why students choose to be part of the Herzing University family.





## Commencement Speaker



**Renée Herzing**  
University President  
Herzing University

Renée succeeded her father, Henry Herzing, as president of the Herzing University System on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. After attaining a bachelor's degree from Brown University, she taught abroad in Scotland and Germany for nine years before completing her Masters in Business Administration.

She has worked in various positions at Herzing University at the campus level, including registrar, director of admissions, and president of Herzing University online. In addition, Ms. Herzing has overseen the System's online, strategic planning, and information technology initiatives. She launched the System's Online division in 2003, which has grown from 100 students to over 2500 students.

In education, she is on the Steering Committee of the Higher Education Regional Alliance (HERA), the Board of WAICU (Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities), and a Trustee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee. Renée served on the Board of Directors for the Career Education Colleges and Universities (CECU) and was the Chair of its Grassroots Committee. Additionally, she is active in national educational idea-sharing groups.

In the business community, she is a member of YPO (Young Presidents' Organization), an international organization of over 20,000 CEOs, where she has held a variety of leadership roles since 2011. She is also a member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC), on the Steering Committee of Milwaukee Women, Inc. and a member of TEMPO Milwaukee.

Outside of work, Renée enjoys playing rock music in a band with her family, traveling, entertaining, learning languages, and spending as much time as possible with her two teenage children, including horseback riding with her daughter.

# Commencement Speaker



**Judge David Hamilton**  
Administrative/Presiding Judge  
Akron Municipal Court

David Hamilton was born and raised in Akron. He is a graduate of Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (CVCA) and received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology as well as minors in Criminal Justice and Criminology from the University of Akron. David earned his Juris Doctorate at the Western Michigan University's Thomas M. Cooley School of Law.

David is a former Prosecutor and Judicial Attorney in Akron Municipal Court. He also served as the District 5 Summit County Councilman. As the Chair

of Public Safety David started and spearheaded the Summit County Jail Advisory Commission in 2017. David is also the founder of the MY-STARS Summer Youth Enrichment Camp; designed for youth to gain exposure to "real world" skills and experiences needed for success in future planning for school and life. David also started the Greater Akron Small Business Summit, which is a network for start-up small businesses in Summit County to learn about the resources that are available to them.

David is currently serving his second term as the Akron Municipal Court Judge. In 2023 and 2025, David was selected by his peers to serve as the Administrative/Presiding Judge of the Akron Municipal Court.

David created COMPASS, which is a program geared towards helping young men find their way by providing opportunities for accountability and change. David is also the co-creator of Raising the Bar, which is a court sponsored program in partnership with Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro, geared toward creating a pipeline from high school to law school by creating opportunities for minority high school students. He is passionate about inspiring the next generation of attorneys and serves as an Adjunct Professor at The University of Akron School of Law.

David is involved in many civic and non-profit organizations. He is a former Board Member of Victim Assistance and AxxessPointe Community Health Centers, Summit County Land Bank, The First Tee of Greater Akron and the Akron Zoo. David was appointed to the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism in 2023 and currently serves on the Board of Directors for ArtsNow. He is a graduate of Leadership Ohio Class of 2023 and a Class 34 Graduate of Leadership Akron. Leadership Ohio honored David with their Community Impact Award in 2024.

David was awarded the Harold K. Stubbs Humanitarian Award, The Akron Bar Association Diversity Award, the BMe Genius fellowship, Crain's Cleveland Business Forty under 40, the Greater Akron Chamber's 30 for the Future award, the Omicron Delta Kappa Alumni Award from the University of Akron and the Akron Urban League Rising Star Award.

David is passionate about helping people and it is his desire to give back to his community.



## Distinguished Alumni



### **Heather Evans**

Nurse Manager

Cleveland Clinic

Associate of Science in Nursing, 2008

Heather is a distinguished nursing leader whose career reflects an unwavering commitment to quality and patient-centered care. She began her journey in healthcare after earning her Associate Degree in Nursing from Herzing College in 2008. Soon after, she joined Regency Hospital, where her dedication and clinical skill quickly earned her a promotion to Charge Nurse in 2010. In pursuit of advanced critical care experience, she transitioned to the ICU at Mercy Hospital in Canton in 2013.

From 2016 to 2017, Heather expanded her professional horizons as a travel nurse in the ICU at the Cleveland Clinic Ashtabula Medical Center. Her leadership trajectory continued at University Hospitals from 2017 to 2019, where she served as Assistant Nurse Manager. There, she led the expansion of ICU capacity from 8 to 16 beds and played a key role in the hospital's first mobile ECMO transfer from UH Portage to the main campus. Her collaboration with LifeBank to enhance organ donation training further exemplified her dedication to quality improvement and staff development.

Since 2019, Heather has served as Nurse Manager at Cleveland Clinic Akron General. She has championed the implementation of self-managed nursing teams and improved patient satisfaction through structured bedside reporting and hourly rounding. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was instrumental in helping design and operate a dedicated COVID-19 ICU and mentored staff in launching a secondary stroke unit, demonstrating agility and leadership during a time of crisis. Heather's educational achievements underscore her commitment to lifelong learning and healthcare leadership. She earned her BSN in 2016, her Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) in 2018, and most recently, her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in 2024, all from Ohio University.

Continuing her mission to enhance community wellness, Heather and her husband are currently in the process of opening an IV hydration business, scheduled to launch in June 2025. This new venture reflects her passion for innovative, accessible care beyond the hospital setting. With a career defined by excellence, innovation, and compassion, Heather exemplifies what it means to be a truly distinguished alumna in nursing.

# Roster of Candidates

This Commencement Program is a roster of candidates, not an official list of graduates. Appropriate degrees and honors are only awarded to candidates who successfully complete all requirements for program completion by established deadlines.

Herzing University's official designator for degree conferral is the student's permanent academic record and is displayed on the official transcript.



## Diploma in Bookkeeping and Payroll Accounting

Rachel Rauzi	Amonda Smart
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## Diploma in Health and Human Services

Marcia King	Precyous Thomas
Melissa Pollock	

## Diploma in Insurance Billing and Coding Specialist

Mary Jane Jones	Ashley Prine-Wahl
Takea Mosley	Gerald Waterston

## Diploma in Medical Assisting

Kayleigh Baber	Teresa Laytart
DaizJanae' Clay	Qiana Marks
Sarah Decot	Alyssa Orosco
Jade Fellows	Jewel Perkins
Stacy Gayer	Keneasha Pitts
Lorayna Hamann	Breanna Sipe
Akia Hubbard	Katy Wickham
Destini Jones	Desiray Winning

**Diploma in Medical Coding**

Neina Ceaser

**Diploma in Medical Office Administration**

Kristal Horn	Christopher Naegeli
Claudia Jacobs	

**Diploma in Practical Nursing**

Jasmann Baddley	Michael Hulse
Rachel Baker	Vayola Kwokwei
Zakeiya Bolar	Jequetta McKeaver
Raynotte Bradford	Esther Moore
Christine Cain	Almond Moss
Ashley Gurnik	Briana Rini
Jillian Halsey	

**Diploma in Sterile Processing**

Paris Benton	Asia Mague
Andrea George	Yonesia Wilson



## Associate Degrees

### **Associate of Applied Science in Accounting**

Bethany Stuckey

### **Associate of Applied Science in Business Management**

Ellen Williams

### **Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice**

Jessica Bethel

### **Associate of Applied Science in Healthcare Administration**

Melanie Romano

Terrie Yates

### **Associate of Applied Science in Medical Office Administration**

Nicole Blankenship

Tami White

Kera Miller

### **Associate of Applied Science in Nursing**

Kayla Andrews-Walters

Jazz Jones

Madison Ball

Angelique Jones

Sarah Bickel

Sara Lott

Cailey Brown

Chelsea Nicholson

Marlisa Burton

Jodie Oden

Madisyn Cover

Deborah Oguta

Kara Groves

Alexandria Ruckman

Chelsea Grow

Laudan Sharifi

Clarissa Hartle

Alexandra Sinchak

Re'Ani Hartson

Ebony Torrence

Nevaeh Hixenbaugh

Justin Wellock

Nicole Jones

## **Associate Degrees**

### **Associate of Applied Science in Software Development**

Tre Torrence

### **Associate of Science in General Studies Pre-Nursing**

Javarii Boyer

Jonah Leah Ostrander

Brittney Huggins

### **Associate of Science in Insurance Billing and Coding Specialist**

Belinda Labay

## Bachelor's Degrees

### **Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences**

Candace Flowers

Crystal Haymon

### **Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration**

MaTatia Brown

Kayla Neely

Kyla Jacoby

Desiree Pixley

### **Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Professional Studies**

Danielle Mendoza

Joseph Revetti

### **Bachelor of Science in Marketing**

Michaelle Wodicka Neal

### **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Kenyada Bloodsaw

Samantha Salvador

Sarah Hauenstein

Victoria Taylor

Shannon Lemmens

Rhonda Thomas

Kiera Moore Mastache

DeHavlin Watson



## Master's Degrees

### **Master of Business Administration**

Tayonna Beasley

### **Master of Science in Healthcare Administration**

Tracy Sekyiwa

### **Master of Science in Nursing**

Ashlane Dauphine

Shawntelle Sluss

### **Master of Science in Nursing in Family Nurse Practitioner**

Synthia Anyiauwung

Ashley Grey

### **Master of Science in Nursing in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**

Angela Casey

Renita Osborn

Kelly Huggins

## Post Master's Certificate

### **Post Masters Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner**

Goddess Mingo

### **Post Masters Certificate in Project Management**

Christopher McCail

### **Post Masters Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**

Domonique Matthews

## Doctorate Degrees

### **Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Shanen Wangler

# Key to Honors

## Master & Doctoral Degree

Graduates receive the Masters and Doctoral degree hood as a recognition of academic achievement.

## Bachelor Degree Honors

*s* = Summa Cum Laude (*with greatest honor*)

A cumulative grade point average of 3.90-4.00 is recognized by a gold stole that is part of the graduate's academic regalia.

*m* = Magna Cum Laude (*with high honor*)

A cumulative grade point average of 3.70-3.89 is recognized by a double gold cord that is part of the graduate's academic regalia.

*c* = Cum Laude (*with honor*)

A cumulative grade point average of 3.50-3.69 is recognized by a double silver cord that is part of the graduate's academic regalia.

## Associate Degree and Diploma Honors

*h* = Honors A cumulative grade point average of 3.50 to 4.00. is recognized by double white cord that is part of the graduate's academic regalia.

## Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society (ABK)

† = ABK National Honor Society

Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society membership is open to undergraduate students who have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher and are recognized at commencement by wearing red, white and blue honor cords. Additional qualifications for membership include leadership and service in class and school activities, and personal integrity and good moral character. The purpose of the society is to help schools, colleges and universities however organized and named, and their students and alumni through the encouragement and recognition of superior academic work and laboratory training in honorable fields of endeavor.

## Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (STT)

Σ = STT International Honor Society

Induction into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing is open to undergraduate nursing students who have completed one half of their nursing curriculum, achieved academic excellence demonstrated by a GPA of 3.0 and rank in the upper 35% of their class; membership is open to graduate nursing students who have completed one quarter of their program and have achieved academic excellence demonstrated by a GPA of 3.5. Students are recognized at commencement by wearing purple and white honor cords or stole. The society is an international community of nurses, dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, teaching, learning, and service through the cultivation of communities of practice, education, and research. Members include clinical nurses and administrators, academic nurse educators and researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and others working to fulfill the organization's vision of connected, empowered nurse leaders transforming global healthcare.



# Alumni Pledge

## I Acknowledge:

As a proud Herzing University alum, I am part of a lifelong community built on mentorship, leadership, and support. Empowered by my education, I will inspire others, foster inclusivity, and create meaningful change.

## I Pledge Therefore:

To embody the P.R.I.C.E. of Success—Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Caring, and Engagement—in all aspects of my life, making a positive impact wherever I go.

**Graduates, welcome to the Herzing University Alumni Circle! Keep in touch and access your no-cost alumni benefits!**



[careerconnect.herzing.edu](https://careerconnect.herzing.edu)

# [i'm] possible



# Executive Committee

**Renée Herzing, M.B.A.**

University President

**Nigel Longworth, M.S.**

Chief Information Officer

**Kitty Kautzer, ED.D.**

Chief Academic Officer

**Erik Parks, B.S.**

Chief Operations Officer

**Clay Gillespie, B.S.**

Chief Marketing Officer

**Simha Sudarshan, M.B.A., J.D.**

Chief Financial Officer

The faculty, staff, and administration of Herzing University cordially welcome graduates, their families, and their friends to this festive occasion and extend to each graduate heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the journey ahead!



# Locations

**Herzing University is an Institution of Higher Learning with  
Locations in the Following States**

**Alabama**

Herzing University, Birmingham

**Florida**

Herzing University, Orlando

Herzing University, Tampa

**Georgia**

Herzing University, Atlanta

**Louisiana**

Herzing University, New Orleans

**Minnesota**

Herzing University, Minneapolis

**Ohio**

Herzing University, Akron

**Tennessee**

Herzing University, Nashville

**Wisconsin**

Herzing University, Brookfield

Herzing University, Kenosha

Herzing University, Madison

Herzing University, Online

Herzing University Central Administration

275 W. Wisconsin Ave. Suite 210

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53203

[www.herzing.edu](http://www.herzing.edu)

Herzing University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.  
To learn more, please go to [www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org)





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— UNIVERSITY —

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