HERZING UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT

October 1st. 2026 11am

Grand Ole Opry

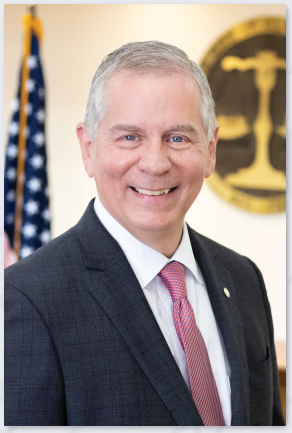
Nashville, Tennessee

HERZING UNIVERSITY
DISCITE • FLORETE • VINCITE

Commencement Ceremony

Processional	**"Pomp and Circumstance"** Written by Sir Edward Elgar Performed by BBC Symphony Orchestra
National Anthem	**"The Star-Spangled Banner"** By Francis Scott Key Performed by Jennay Cowan–Senior Student Services Advisor–Trainer
Welcome & Introduction	**Dr. Laurna Taylor** Senior Director of Campus Operations
Student of the Year Award	**Nashville–Steve Espinal** Diploma in Practical Nursing **Clarksville–Taleigha Graham** Diploma in Practical Nursing
Commencement Speaker	**Joe Pitts** Mayor, Clarksville, TN
Conferring of Graduate Degrees	**Dr. Laurna Taylor** Senior Director of Campus Operations
Conferring of Undergraduate Degrees, Diplomas & Certificates	**Dr. Laurna Taylor** Senior Director of Campus Operations
Distinguished Alumni Award & Alumni Pledge	**Rachel Baker, '25** Diploma in Practical Nursing
Charge to Graduates & Closing Remarks	**Bill Cassidy** Regional Director of Operational Initiatives
Recessional	**"Radetzky-Marsch, Op. 228"** Written by Johann Strauss Sr. Performed by Berlin Philharmonic

Commencement Speaker



Joe Pitts

Mayor
Clarksville, Tennessee

Mayor Joe Pitts is a native of Clarksville and a product of the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System. He graduated from Northwest High School in 1976, and from Austin Peay State University in 1980. Joe and his wife, Cynthia, an ordained minister, have five children, and are grandparents of 14. Prior to his 2019 election as the 21st mayor for the City of Clarksville, Joe served six, two-year terms representing the people of District 67 in the Tennessee House of Representatives. While in the House, he served on the House Education Instruction and Programs Committee and Sub-committee; the Three Branches Institute for the Department of Children's Services; and was a member of the Tennessee General Assembly Veterans Caucus. Joe was also Vice President of Planters Bank in Clarksville for more than 13 years.

Student of the Year



Steve Espinal
Nashville Campus

Steve Espinal, LPN Class of 2026, is a proud graduate of Herzing University and this year's Student of the Year honoree. Originally from New York and a proud Army veteran, Steve always dreamed of becoming a nurse. While working as the Nashville campus mailman, he decided to take a leap of faith and pursue his passion for nursing.

Throughout his journey, Steve has found his purpose in helping others. During the nursing program, he became known for his positive attitude and willingness to support his classmates through challenging times. Whether assisting with skills validations, simulation labs, or onsite clinicals, Steve was always ready to lend a helping hand and encourage those around him.

Inspired to continue his education, Steve is dedicated to lifelong learning and hopes to set an example for his son by demonstrating the value, importance, and opportunities that education can provide.

Student of the Year



Taleigha Graham
Clarksville Campus

Being recognized as Nursing Student of the Year is an incredible privilege. Coming from an Atlanta family with deep military roots, service, dedication, and structure have always guided my life. Over the last seven years, working as a Workers' Compensation Field Case Manager taught me how to navigate high -stakes healthcare environments and advocate fiercely for patients. Now, I am channeling that experience toward my dream of becoming an Emergency Department nurse. Outside of the classroom and clinicals, my world revolves around my family especially my girls, who inspire me every day to lead with heart, excel in my craft, and make a meaningful difference in our community.

Distinguished Alumnus



Rachel Baker

Diploma in Practical Nursing, 2025

Rachel Baker is a 2025 graduate of Herzing University's Nursing program and a nurse with five years of experience in neurology and medical-surgical care. Throughout her career, she has developed a strong passion for caring for patients with complex neurological and medical needs. In addition to direct patient care, Rachel has taken on charge responsibilities and enjoys mentoring and supporting newer nurses as they grow in their practice. Beyond her clinical work, Rachel has also been involved with Nurses for Newborns, working directly with families and further reflecting her commitment to supporting children and families within her community. Her time at Herzing helped her build upon her clinical experience and take the next step in her nursing career. She looks forward to continuing her education, expanding her clinical knowledge, and further advancing her career 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.

Post Master's Certificate

Post Master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner

KeiLei Williams

Post Master's Certificate in Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Erica Bayes

Post Master's Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Kristina Crook

Janica Wren

Master's Degrees

Master of Business Administration

Brandon Clark
Emma Smith

Katherine Powell
Yulanda Danielly

Master of Science in Business Analytics

T'shauna Mann

Master of Science in Computer Science

Richard Twumasi-Ankrah

Master's Degrees

Master of Science in Healthcare Administration

Lachelle Boga

Shanay Akutare

Master of Science in Nursing

Alexis Bryant
Alicia Parrow
Angela Allen
Callie Griffin
Callie Griffin
Cami Taylor
Carissa Mullins
Caroline Bell
Churchill Ihentuge
Ciera Foster
Derreonia Harris
Emily Boxrud
Fania Amburn
Haja Tarawallie
Jazmin Lewis
Jherica Law
Josephine Encizo
Kalynn Williams
Kathryn Sweeney
Kennedy Key
Keora Anderson
Koury Eways
Likito Stubbs
Man Dim
Mary Bimpong
Nana Kwasi Opoku Fosu
Priscilla Cobb
Rana Overall
Rana Overall
Rhoda Opoku Frimpong
Samantha Swaby
Savanna Utley
Starlett Bass
Uchechi Nwosu
Victoria Hampton
Zandra Castillo

Master of Science in Nursing in Family Nurse Practitioner

Autumn Plauche
Brian Morgan
Celia Allman
Christy Anderson
Lakeisha Wesley
Shateka Brown
Stephanie Luecke

Master of Science in Nursing in Nursing Leadership and Administration

Ellen El-chaer
Laci Charles
Lynn Martinez
Rhojani Requena
Sonia Cortez
Tiffany Zehner

Master's Degrees

Master of Science in Nursing in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Brittney Griffin
Christina Tait
Jessica Parker
Lia Davis
Urenna
Ukattah-Asikwo

Master of Social Work

Ashley Mobley

Bachelor's Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics

Nina Getgen

Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity

Adebimpe Adisa c

Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Services

Yvonne Mcfarland s

Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management

Asia Ward m

Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration

Alisha Thomas
Bianca Williams m
Saby Eugene
Tamara Tate
Victoria Huerta s

Bachelor of Science in Human Resources

Robert Jones c

Bachelor's Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Marketing

Dylan Nelson

Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management

Luckey Abshir

Bachelor of Science in Computer Programming

Meredith Thompson

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Agripina Ramoya
Akxa Alex c
Alora Joseph
Amanda Atkinson
Amanda Porter
Angela Colvin c
Anisha Walker m
Anthony Jankovsky
Arthur Lewis
Ashlyn Leebelt c
Ashlynn Hunt
Catherine Boulanger
Celeste Cutchins
Christina Springer
Cierra Ward
Colby Ward s
Faith Schuster
Francisca Tinker
Holly Stokes
Jennifer Francis m
Judith Ntiege-Kang c
Kayla McGuire c
Kelsey Mossberg c
Kiara Jones s
Kimberly Pedroza Esquivel
Lauren Muglio m
Lola Saini m
Margarita Tzaquitzal
Marian Akinsete m
Martin Moseley
Michael Novak
Michael Reed
Millie Newman
Mosetta Dennis s
Nonye Okafoeze c
Paige Umscheid
Pamela Vaughn
Patrick Buszka s
Rachel Baldwin m
Raegan Gerke c
Rebecca Schlea
Rebecca Webb
Sara Gossett c
Sarah Jones c
Seirra Baker
Susan Barden c
Tawnya Avina m
Tracey Davis

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Ashley Rutland
Morgan Brandon

Associate Degrees

Associate of Science in Criminal Justice

Jessica Hathaway

Associate of Science in General Studies - Pre-Nursing

Christina Triplett
Crystal Howard
Darlene Davis
Darlene Davis
Ericka Danner h
Jennifer Dodd
Karen Escobar
Kayla Shreve
Kearie Walker
Lamonte Mills h
Maria Cruz Garcia Herrera h
Mikaela Buntjer
Paul Rivera
Shenae Ellis
Tikeitha Ostine
Yadira Rodriguez Rivero

Associate of Science in Health and Human Services

Lottie Stewart h

Associate of Science in Health Information Management

Dennisha Stuckey
RosaLee Starks

Associate of Science in Healthcare Administration

Abigail Adonis h
Harley Wheeler
Jerrisha Minnis
Maya Thomas
Rebecca Young h

Associate of Science in Insurance Billing and Coding Specialist

Jamie Bradburn h
Tamara Blake h
Jonae Teasley

Associate of Science in Health and Human Services

Jada Powell

Associate of Science in Medical Assisting Services

Alexis Fulton
Kayla Palomo
Kylar Chillis
Natalie Esley

Associate Degrees

Associate of Science in Medical Coding

Neina Ceaser
Yakira Griffin

Associate of Science in Nursing

Ashley Thomas h
AUTUMN WILLIAMS
Bailey Holt
Briana Revis
Brianna Hanchin h
Chrissy Hollis
Cierra Spencer
Destiny Crawford
Evelyn Pfistner h
Hannah Lopez Tusa
Iesha Lane
Innassa Brich h
Jennifer White h
Kelsey Kemppainen
Laura Mosier h
Maddison Stead h
Marissa Benavidez
Mayeshori Khadka
Michaela Stone
Rachel Grubbs
Samantha Luther
Shannon Clark h
Sokhena Diallo
Taylor Kinnett h
Tedesa McGill
Theresa Cruz

Diplomas

Diploma in Health and Human Services

Jcee Smith
Jordan Matthews h
Lakesha Jones h
Lintrisa Fields h
Spencer Pillow

Diploma in Insurance Billing and Coding Specialist

Erica Schroeder
Gracie Nolen
Lauren Anderson
Nakita Guest
Oceaonna Welch
Olivia Ruyle
Teandrea Rawls

Diploma in Medical Assisting

Alissa Talley
Christopher Herb
Darmeshia Buchanan
DeAyla Lander
Heidy Solorzano
Jaida Smith
Jessica Torres
Makayla Lewinter
Nina Watkins
Tiffanie Freeman

Diplomas

Diploma in Medical Coding

Brittany Bell
Denisiah Emerson
Emily Walker
Melissa Andrews
Shasta Chester
Zynika Fletcher

Diploma in Medical Office Administration

Jamesha King
Kierra Williams

Diploma in Practical Nursing

Abeni McGee h
Ah'maya Johnson
Alexandra Jean Baptiste
Alexis Hernandez
Alicia Green
Alyssa Buchanan
Angela Taylor h
Arion White h
Arnette Austin
Bailey Kindig
Blanca Yesenia Vanegas Garcia
Briauna Deitz
Brittany Cunningham
Brooklynn Settles
Byonca Allen h
Caelyn Rowe h
Chalonda Church
Chelsey King
Chidubem Amaraegbu h
Chloe Sanabria
Ciara Nelson
Courtney Howe
Crystal Lyon h
Cynthia Atkins
Darcy Davenport h
Dawn Gibbs
Destinee Weldon
Destiny Brown
Destiny Young
Donetta Iverson h
Edzel Trombley
Erin Thurnherr
Essence Pickens
Freda Anumwaah
Gabriella Ramos
Heather Smith
Imari Gray
Jashonna Lewis
Jimese Miller h
Jocelyn Lenoir h
Jordan Grainger
Jovonda Young
Kamyia Ector
Katelynn Johnson
Katiana Jacques
Kerry Taylor
Kewauna Stalls
Khalaya Stott
Kiera Fisk
Kierstin Taylor-Garrett
Kmya Harris McLaurin h
Kylyn Kemp h
Kynia Thompson
Lakeysha Anderson
Lamia Chancellor
Latoyia Anderson
Laura Spaar
Lyle Johnson
Madison Doron
Mariana Calixtro
Marianne Lisenbee
Najma Hassan
Nikechia Anderson h
Paige Montgomery h
Rachel Baker
Rashetta Bash
Rushanna Crawford

Diplomas

Diploma in Practical Nursing (Cont.)

Sara Lee
Sara Weidauer
Sarah Walden
Sequoya Mack Brown
Shalie Davis
Shamaya Brown
Sharisa Kimble h
Sheila Wilkerson
Shondrea Roberts
Stephanie Cameron
Stephanie Rodriguez
Steve Espinal
Suhail Lopez
Summer Bruce h
Takera Pickens
Taleigha Graham
Tamala Kling
Tamia Puckett
Tara Manning h
Tayla Bell
Thailee Clark-Figueroa
Tiara Green
Tierra Tyus
Toni Nichols
Tonya Weathers
Tusana Haffizulla
Tyler Antoine
Tyler Rushing h
Tyneshia Jackson
Whitnee Woodson
Yarisel Rodriguez h
Yashoda Subedi h
Andrea Suah
Asja Petrie-White
Christine Rewey
Ciara Kennedy
Danielle Christensen
Genevieve Nkouonga h
Latasha Harris h
Leah Medved
Marshenae Jackson
Mawata Bility
Nafisa Obsiye
Olivia Tjosvold
Rachidatou Gibril
Shelsea Arias De Rivas
Sheng Thao
Shonvaye Maxey
Taleaya Bass-Jordan h
Tamara Bass h

Diploma in Sterile Processing

Aaliyah Chestnut
Aitiyanna Barcliff
Akilah Haywood-Ibrahimy
Alyssa Lawrie
Amari Radford
Amber Hubbard h
Anaiya Cole
Angela Jones h
Aniyyah Crutchfield h
Aria Glover
Ariel Burrus
Chiquita McGregor
Christen Phillips
Christian McGee h
Daja Williams
Donna Whisenant h
Gabrielle Edwards h
Jaclyn Corder
Jamica Brisbon
Janae Bracey
Juan Porter
Kaprice Copeland
Kimberly Moore
La-Kayla Waller h
LaShaunta Franklin
Lasydnia Miller
Latino Harris
Leeanna Thompson h

Diplomas

Diploma in Sterile Processing (Cont.)

Mackenna Stiehl h
Marquita Sheared
Mary Stillwell
Mitzy Olvera
Montaja Jones
Nakeisha Tucker
Nakia Harris
Nikeshia Fannin
Pashayla Houston h
Porchelle Sublett
Savannah Garrett h
Shalamar Perry h
Shantara Hill
Tamia Bond h
Tequila Jackson
Thomas Doyle
TyRaye Williams
Whitney Key
Aaliyah Chestnut
Aitiyanna Barcliff
Akilah Haywood-Ibrahimy
Alyssa Lawrie
Amari Radford
Amber Hubbard h
Anaiya Cole
Angela Jones h
Aniyyah Crutchfield h
Aria Glover
Ariel Burrus
Chiquita McGregor
Christen Phillips
Christian McGee h
Daja Williams
Donna Whisenant h
Gabrielle Edwards h
Jaclyn Corder
Jamica Brisbon
Janae Bracey
Juan Porter
Kaprice Copeland
Kimberly Moore
La-Kayla Waller h
LaShaunta Franklin
Lasydnia Miller
Latino Harris
Leeanna Thompson h
Mackenna Stiehl h
Marquita Sheared
Mary Stillwell
Mitzy Olvera
Montaja Jones
Nakeisha Tucker
Nakia Harris
Nikeshia Fannin
Pashayla Houston h
Porchelle Sublett
Savannah Garrett h
Shalamar Perry h
Shantara Hill
Tamia Bond h
Tequila Jackson
Thomas Doyle
TyRaye Williams
Whitney Key

Certificate

Certificate in Information Technology

Gregory Southall
Joseph Young
Logan Hyche
London Dubose

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 how-so-ever 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.

Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society (PA)

‡ = PA Social Work Honor Society

The highest honor one can receive in Social Work at Herzing University is membership in the Delta Kappa Sigma Chapter of Phi Alpha International Honor Society. Members must earn a 3.5 cumulative GPA, have completed at least one-third of the program, and have completed 10 hours of community service. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. Students are recognized at commencement by wearing a blue and gold honor cord or stole. The purpose of Phi Alpha Honor Society is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals

Key to Honors

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:

That I continue to be an essential part of Herzing University and shall represent the University proudly by mentoring and guiding others. That I am fortunate and empowered by my education to positively invest in supporting the well-being of the people around me helping to build a strong and inclusive community.

I Pledge Therefore:

That I will remember to demonstrate the P.R.I.C.E. of Success values that I have learned of Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Caring and Engagement in all that I do – in the workplace, at home and in my network.

Graduates, welcome to the Herzing University alumni circle! Please go to:

alumni.herzing.edu

and register to connect with classmates as well as enjoy the numerous complimentary benefits of the Association.

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HERZING
— CIRCLE —

Executive Committee

Renée Herzing, M.B.A.
University President

Nigel Longworth, M.S.
Chief Operations Officer and Chief Information Officer

Kitty Kautzer, ED.D.
Chief Academic Officer

Erik Parks, B.S.
Chief Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer

Clay Gillespie, B.S.
Chief Marketing 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, Clarksville
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

Herzing University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. To learn more, please go to www.hlcommission.org

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