



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Nursing

Commencement & Pinning

2026

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations, Class of 2026! Today we celebrate your hard work, your growth, and your unwavering commitment to the nursing profession. You have earned your place among the proud legacy of Cougar Nurses and we are honored to share this moment with you.

As nurses, you will be invited into some of life's most profound moments. You will witness incredible joy - new life, healing, hope restored - and you will also stand beside others in heartbreak, loss, and uncertainty. These experiences will shape you in ways that no textbook ever could. They will deepen your empathy, strengthen your resolve, and remind you of the power of human connection. Embrace these experiences and recognize the incredible role you hold as a nurse.

You are entering a field where your presence will matter more than you can imagine. The knowledge and skills you have gained at the WSU College of Nursing will serve as your foundation, but it is your compassion, courage, and authenticity that will define your impact.

We are proud of you, inspired by you, and confident in the difference you will make. Wherever your journey takes you next - whether in hospitals, clinics, communities, or classrooms - know that you carry with you the legacy of Cougar Nurses who lead with heart and excellence.

Go forth boldly. Go Cougs!

With heartfelt congratulations,



Dr. Anne Mason
Dean, WSU College of Nursing



WSU College of Nursing Commencement & Pinning Ceremony

May 8, 2026 • 3:00 pm • Whitworth University • Spokane, WA

Program

Dean's Welcome – Dr. Anne Mason

Provost's Message – Dr. Chris Riley-Tillman

Student Speaker – Ty Vaena

Awards and Recognition

Introduction of Graduates

Thank You & Close

Fight Song

Thank you to our special Board of Regents guests, Regent Doug Picha and Regent Howard Wright.



**Read President
Cantwell's Letter to
the Class of 2026**



Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

Ellen Romesburg

Exploring Communication of Genomic Information by Primary Care Nurse Practitioners in Rural Settings

Christopher Tersigni

The Experiences of Gay and Bisexual Latino Men Living with HIV in the Pacific Northwest

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Makena Ackerman

Post-Master's General (PMG)

Bailey Poler

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

Paisha Andersen

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Sharanjot Punghlia

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Lexi Hnatiak

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Britanie Speziale

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Robyn Maehren

Public Health (PH)

McKaylin Wood

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Chamelle Abringe

Kendra Castrejon

Mya Ackerman

Shanni Chou[^]

Aanuoluwapo Ajayi

Trisha Luy Chua

Katelyn Alderson

Ashley Donovan

Virgil Bays

Madison Edwards

Hailey Becklin

Alison Fazio

Jordan Belote

Jack Fields

Amelia Braman

Taylor Fowers

Elizabeth Brazington

Xander Frandsen

Sarah Burke

Kate Guede*

Allison Bybee

Grace Hagedorn

Makenzie Hansen

Luke Harris

Breisis Heffernan-Tschritter

Kayla Hendry

Annie Huang

Julia Huntley

Angel Ikueze

Alana Jackson

Jalisa Jarmon

Jordan Jonason

Sara Kelley

Sophie Kilian

Daniel Kravtsov

Meghan Landon

Nathan Larsen

Olivia Lofstedt+

Briana Lough

Marcel Angel Manginga

Alyssa Martindale

Maria Martinez

Cadence McLin[^]

Jenae Mercado

Kylie Michaud

Rubee Mickel

Gabriella Mongrain

Kiera Morley*

Hailey Nava

Tracy Nguyen

Emma Oldham

Emma Osborne

Aliah Parsons

Lorena Perez

Emma Price

Anishhang Rai

Rochelle Rappel

Shannon Reed

Kendra Regis

Bradley Reynolds

Abigail Roberts+

Hector Rodriguez

Ashley Sample

Erin San Angelo

Phoebe Schultze

Joshua Shelton

Karen Smyly

Addisen Somes

MaKaylie Stockert

Jacob Streuli+

Cali Strong

Xiaoge (Ivy) Tian

Ty Vaeena

Taylor Ward

Katie Wheatley

Kaylene Wier

Aimee Willis

Tyler Wisen

Katharine Yang

Jenna Young



Land Acknowledgment

Washington State University acknowledges that its Spokane campus rests on the homelands of the Spokane Tribe, who have lived in this region from time immemorial and continue to serve as its original and enduring caretakers. The University expresses its deepest respect for and gratitude to the Spokane people for their stewardship of this land. As an academic community committed to diversity, inclusion, and respect, we recognize our responsibility to honor their people, culture, and history, and to act with accountability and reciprocity as we live, learn, and work in this place.

Let me dedicate my life today
To the care of those who come my way
Let me touch each one with a healing hand
And the gentle art for which I stand
And then tonight when day is done
Let me rest in peace if I've helped just one.
– a nurse's pledge





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