

# MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY



## COMMENCEMENT

MAY 3, 2025

1:00 P.M.

CIMPL ARENA, YANKTON, SD

# 2025 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

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## **PROCESSIONAL**

**“Pomp and Circumstance”**

**Marches, Op. 39, No. 1**

by Sir Edward Elgar

*Led by Dr. Deborah McCuin*

*Academic Senate Chair*

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**“The Star Spangled Banner”**

by Francis Scott Key

*Mount Marty University Choir*

## **INVOCATION**

**Morgan Bates '25**

**“The Mount Marty  
University Prayer”**

by Anthony Maglione

## **WELCOME**

**Dr. Marcus Long**

President

## **STUDENT AWARDS**

**Dr. James Barnett '23**

Interim Director, Nurse Anesthesia

**Dr. Kathy Magorian '97**

Dean of Nursing and

Health Sciences

## **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

**Dr. Marcus Long**

## **HOODING AND**

## **PRESENTATION OF**

## **CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

**Dr. William Miller**

Provost

**Dr. James Barnett**

**Dr. Kathy Magorian**

**Dr. Deborah McCuin**

Director, Graduate Teacher

Education

**Dr. Mark Brown**

Director, Biotechnology

**Dr. Carol Stewart**

Director, Nurse Practitioner

## **CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

**Dr. Marcus Long**

## **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

### **WELCOME**

**Johanna Jablonoski '14**

Director of Alumni & Family

Relations

## **BENEDICTION**

**Lauren Heyden '25**

**“Come to the Water”**

arr. Lynda Hasseler

## **RECESSIONAL**

**“Procession of the Nobles”**

**from Mlada**

by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

*Led by Dr. Deborah McCuin*

*It is customary for the audience to stand during the Processional, National Anthem, Invocation, Benediction and Recessional.*

# MOUNT MARTY PRAYER

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O God,

Creator of all things and source of wisdom and knowledge, send your Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, words, and actions so that everything we do will begin with your inspiration and continue with your guidance and blessing. Help us to speak and act with integrity so that we may uphold the values of Mount Marty University. May we use our talents and abilities in the best ways possible so that You may be glorified and our neighbor served.

We pray these things through Jesus, your Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**AMEN.**

*The Mount Marty Prayer was written by  
Father Thomas Wordekemper, OSB, '79.*

# COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

## by Dr. Marcus Long

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A native of Missouri, Marc Long has spent his entire life living within 30 miles of the Missouri River, which flows by Mount Marty University's (MMU) Yankton campus. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Missouri and a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Prior to joining the MMU community as president of the university, Long served as the vice president for administration at the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis, and before his tenure in St. Louis, Long served 13 years in the chancellor's office at the University of Missouri.

Long is MMU's 11th president. He began his tenure on July 15, 2015, and has focused on increasing enrollment and student success, fostering Benedictine leadership principles across the university, and partnering with other entities to better serve MMU students and the region. From 2019 to 2023, Long served as chair of the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities, and he led the Council of Presidents of the Great Plains Athletic Conference from 2021 to 2023. He was the first MMU president to lead either organization. In 2023, he became the longest-serving president in MMU's 87-year history except for the three Benedictine sisters who served in that capacity.

Since 2015, MMU has completed more than \$20 million in new building projects, including the Ruth Donohoe First Dakota Fieldhouse and Rickenbach Suites. In addition, MMU became the first private university in South Dakota to offer doctoral programs. During Long's tenure, enrollment increased by thirty percent during eight consecutive years of growth, and he worked with Avera Health to establish the Avera Nursing Advantage program, which offers significant financial and professional advantages to MMU nursing students who choose to become Avera nurses after graduation. In the process, Mount Marty became Avera's preferred nursing school. The university also added football, archery, cheer and dance to its athletics offerings and completed its first major fundraising campaign in history.

In addition to his higher education leadership work, Long has served on the Yankton Thrive and United Way and Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton boards. Long also serves as an adjunct research professor of emergency medicine at the University of Missouri and continues to serve as a volunteer mentor for doctoral students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is also a Benedictine oblate at Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton.

In March 2025, Long announced his intentions to retire from MMU after a transformational ten years leading the institution.

# DOCTOR OF NURSE ANESTHESIA PRACTICE

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**LORNA RAE BECHTEL**

Elk River, MN

**MAXWELL WALKER HERSMAN**

Excelsior, MN

**STEPHANIE LEE BEUTLER**

Rapid City, SD

**MARYN HOLZER**

Groton, SD

**SIERRA BIRDELL**

Lisle, IL

**KATHLEEN NOEL KAYSINGER**

Seattle, WA

**DAVIS KINGERY BOTHE**

Perrysburg, OH

**ARIEL KIRSCHMAN**

Sioux Falls, SD

**MARISSA CHAN**

Lakeville, MN

**KORY LINDQUIST**

Sioux Falls, SD

**LINDA JEAN DUBBELDE**

Brandon, SD

**COLBY MAHAR**

Fargo, ND

**ALEXANDRIA ERICKSON**

Sioux Falls, SD

**DANIELLE VICTORIA MAMOLA**

Farmingdale, NJ

**JACOB FARRELL**

Hampshire, IL

**CIARA MILLIKAN**

Sioux Falls, SD

**ERICH A. FRAZEUR**

Lennox, SD

**KARI POWERS**

Louisville, KY

**JOSEPH MICHAEL GOMEZ**

Graham, WA

**CLARE QUICKSELL**

Arden Hills, MN

**ANDREA JOY GOODROAD**

Gettysburg, SD

**SARAH M. SAVELKOUL**

Albert Lea, MN

**MAKAYLA MARIE HAGERTY**

Sioux Falls, SD

**ADAM R. SCHROEDER**

Sioux Falls, SD

**DANIELLE HARTMAN**

Saint Paul, MN

**CHANDRA SELINGER**

Dickinson, ND

**RENEE' MICHELLE SMETHURST**

Harrisburg, SD

**SAMANTHA WAHLSTROM**

Oak Grove, MN

**NICHOLAS STANKE**

Eau Claire, WI

**SAMANTHA WERNER**

Mandan, ND

**ZACHARY MARK STEGEMAN**

Mendota Heights, MN

**BRANDON JAMES WEST**

Brandon, SD

**JAMES TORNBERG**

Iowa City, IA

**LANDON J. WILLIAMSON**

Pasco, WA

**ALEXA RAE ALTENA-VAN VUGT**

Sioux Center, IA

**KELLY WITTHUHN**

Denver, CO

**AUSTIN VANDERWEIDE**

Sioux Falls, SD

**MARINA JEAN WOSMEK**

South Haven, MN

## **DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE**

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**JENA MARIE BURGESS\***

Leadership and Education

Sioux Falls, SD

**CHRISTINE ANN DUERKSEN\***

Leadership and Education

Bridgewater, SD

# MASTER OF EDUCATION

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**MORGAN ANA BURNETT**

Coaching Leadership  
Fairplay, CO

**MOLLY JEAN HANSE**

Coaching Leadership  
Claremont, SD

**HEIDI ANN HENLE**

Curriculum and Instruction  
Mitchell, SD

**LAUREN BLANCHE HEYDEN**

Curriculum and Instruction  
Newport, NE

**LALIT JAIN**

Coaching Leadership  
Moonak, India

**ZANE THOMAS POLLON**

Coaching Leadership  
Wilcox, Canada

**MATÍAS ROMERO**

Coaching Leadership  
Neuquén, Argentina

**DIEGO ALFREDO ROMERO**

**SANCHÉZ**  
Coaching Leadership  
Cordoba, Mexico

**ADRIANNA RENAE SIMS**

Coaching Leadership  
Malcolm, NE

**TREY DAVID VORWALD^**

Coaching Leadership  
Lowell, IN

# MASTER OF SCIENCE

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**EMMANUEL OPOKU**

**AGYEMANG\***

Biotechnology Management  
Denver, CO

**SIERRA T. BROWN^**

Biotechnology Management  
Englewood, CO

**ANNA LUCY BUDDENHAGEN\***

Biotechnology Management  
Denver, CO

**ASHLEY JASMINE CASTRO**

Biotechnology Management  
Denver, CO

**ASHLEIGH NICOLE DECKER**

Biotechnology Management  
Colorado Springs, CO

**NOAH JOHN DIXON**

Biotechnology Management  
New Milford, CT

**DANIEL REED FUHR**

Biotechnology Management  
Golden, CO

**MATTHEW JAMES HOLLER\***

Biotechnology Management  
White, SD

**BRIONA JENSEN**

Biotechnology Management  
Scribner, NE

**ISABELLE LASHAWN JOHNSON**

Biotechnology Management  
Pueblo, CO

**GANNON LEE JONES**

Biotechnology Management  
Colorado Springs, CO

**TESSA ROSE KILBERG**

Biotechnology Management  
Edina, MN

**MITCHELL TAYLOR KNUTSEN**

Biotechnology Management  
Fort Collins, CO

**JASON LAMBERT\***

Biotechnology Management  
Rapid City, SD

**KYLEE MCDANIEL**

Biotechnology Management  
Cheyenne, OK

**JACOB ANTHONY MILLER**

Biotechnology Management  
Centennial, CO

**ROMAN LEN BERG OVERTURF**

Biotechnology Management  
Arvada, CO

**JOCELYN ROMERO\***

Biotechnology Management  
Aurora, CO

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Biotechnology Management  
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Biotechnology Management  
Sheridan, WY

**MARKOS VIRIDIAN\***

Biotechnology Management  
Fort Collins, CO

**TAYLOR WOOLLEY**

Biotechnology Management  
Post Falls, ID

**KATHRYN R. WORRELL**

Biotechnology Management  
Berthoud, CO



# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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**KATHRYN BANET**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Jamestown, ND

**JAZLYN BATES**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Rugby, ND

**MORGAN ASHLEY BATES**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Rapid City, SD

**SARAH A. BERG\***

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Nortonville, ND

**KRISTINA MARIE BOLDT**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Omaha, NE

**MYRANDA BRANDNER**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Pierre, SD

**SEAN CIHAK**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Avon, SD

**MEGHAN GRACE CORR**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Hermosa, SD

**CRYSTAL DANIELLE CULVER**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Papillion, NE

**KERRI DEWINE**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Gillette, WY

**LAUREN JANE ELLWEIN^**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Sioux Falls, SD

**MADELYN HEFFNER**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Boise, ID

**SARAH LYNN HEHN**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Omaha, NE

**KAITLYN CARSON JENKINS^**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Eugene, OR

**ANN MICHELLE KONDA**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Sioux Falls, SD

**TARA LEETCH**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Albion, NE

**PAOLA MWENENTANDA**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Sioux Falls, SD

**TAYLOR OLDENKAMP**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Harrisburg, SD

**KAYLA ORGAARD**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Gillette, WY

**ERICA J. PALMER**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Spearfish, SD

**RYAN JOSEPH PODANY^**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
O'Neill, NE

**JOSIE L. POST**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Sioux Center, IA

**COURTNEY ANNE QUINN**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Lead, SD

**DANIELLE JILL REGNIER**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Montevideo, MN

**MELINDA ROWE**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Spearfish, SD

**HAWAN ISTIFANOS SMALL**

Family Nurse Practitioner  
Sioux Falls, SD

**ALFAHNIQUE CHERKERA**

**TEIGEN**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Nassau, Bahamas

**JUSTIN NEIL VONK**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Sioux Falls, SD

**MEGHAN WALKER**

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner  
Yankton, SD

# ACADEMIC REGALIA

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The tradition of academic costume has a history of nearly eight centuries. In medieval Europe, all townsmen wore long flowing robes or gowns. The materials and colors varied greatly, according to wealth and rank of the individual and were governed by royal decree. Gradually, distinctive gowns developed for the various professions, trades and guilds. This tradition survives today in gowns of religious orders, the judiciary and the academic regalia.

The gowns worn by the recipients of the various degrees vary somewhat in design. The sleeves of the gown worn by recipients of the baccalaureate degree are long and pointed, while the sleeves of the gown worn by the master's degree recipients are square at one end with a slit at the elbow. The doctor's gown has flowing sleeves with three bars of velvet and a facing of velvet down the front of the gown.

Most distinctive of the academic regalia is the hood, which identifies the graduate degree and the institution where the degree was awarded. The hood is lined with silk in the official colors of the institution. The velvet edging indicates the degree as follows:

**Arts, Letters, Humanities:** White  
**Commerce, Accountancy, Business:** Drab  
**Education:** Light Blue  
**Fine Arts:** Brown  
**Music:** Pink  
**Nursing:** Apricot  
**Philosophy:** Dark Blue  
**Physical Education:** Sage Green  
**Science:** Golden Yellow  
**Theology:** Scarlet

**\* INDICATES DECEMBER 2024 GRADUATE**

**^ INDICATES AUGUST 2025 CANDIDATE**

*Names listed in this publication and participation in the commencement exercises may not be construed as documentation of completion of degree requirements. Certification of the conferral of a degree is by official transcript noting degree completion.*

# MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY

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Mount Marty University is a Catholic, Benedictine institution of higher learning founded in 1936 by the Sisters of Saint Benedict of Yankton, South Dakota. The institution is named in memory of Martin Marty, a Swiss monk, who came to the Dakota Territory in 1876 and became the territory's first Catholic bishop. As bishop, he invited the Benedictine Sisters to establish a religious community in South Dakota.

The university functioned as a junior college for women for 15 years; in 1951 it awarded its first Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. In 1969, the college became coeducational. Associate of Arts degree programs were introduced in 1975 in areas compatible with already existing programs. Graduate study came to the institution with the first Master of Science degree being awarded in 1983, followed by the first Master of Art degree in 1999. The first doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia Practice was approved in 2016. Mount Marty University is the first private university in South Dakota to offer doctoral degrees.

Mount Marty University's main campus is located in Yankton, SD. There are two additional locations in Watertown, SD, and Sioux Falls, SD.

Mount Marty University-Watertown has been serving northeast South Dakota since 1972 and offers numerous undergraduate degrees in non-traditional formats. This non-residential learning environment offers flexible options that cater to all students and working professionals looking to enhance their lives and further their careers through higher education.

Sioux Falls is home to the Mount Marty Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice graduate program, a program that has been producing successful nurse anesthetists for more than 75 years. This 36-month program prepares the next generation of advanced practice nursing professionals for commitment to excellence in clinical care, advancing the profession and service to the human community. The Sioux Falls location is also home to Mount Marty University's new Master of Science in Biotechnology degree, the first such degree in the state.

In keeping with the Benedictine tradition, the university exists as a community of learners. Primary emphasis is placed on the development of each person as a complete human being with intellectual competence; professional and personal skills; and a composite of moral, spiritual and social values.

# PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

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The Presidential Medallion represents the authority granted to the President of the institution by the Board of Trustees. It carries the seal of the university as well as four banners with the core values: awareness of God, community, hospitality and lifelong learning. They serve as a constant reminder that these values are believed in and carried out from the leader of the institution on to the various internal and external publics that Mount Marty University serves. On the bottom of the medallion are the words; scientia (knowledge), veritas (truth) and sapientia (wisdom). It is a symbol that will inspire the quest for knowledge by the faculty and our students. It is a symbol that will inspire the pursuit of spiritual wholeness for all the members of our community.

## MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

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Mount Marty University, an academic community in the Catholic Benedictine liberal arts tradition, prepares students for a contemporary world of work, service to the human community and personal growth.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024 - 2025

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