



MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mount Marty recently celebrated its 2026 undergraduate and graduate students at commencement for both the Yankton and Watertown campuses. This was the first commencement of Dr. Mark Brown’s tenure as Mount Marty president.

Michael “Mick” Gibbs, president and CEO of Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, delivered the commencement address at both programs. Gibbs’ address centered on the values of humility, small acts of service, and “showing up” to help out, regardless of any reward.

The ceremonies honored the students who graduated in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 and candidates for August 2026.

Photos from the Yankton Commencement can be viewed [here](#).

A full list of those celebrated is below:

Spring 2026 Graduates

Name	City	State	Degree	Honors
Aase, Katie A	Canton	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Alexander, Alexis	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Alexander, Baylor G	Georgetown	TX	Bachelor of Arts	
Anderico, Daniel A	Port St. Lucie	FL	Bachelor of Arts	
Anthony, Summer S	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Ardehali, Shelby	Thornton	CO	Master of Science	
Badger, Tashlynn M	Brandon	SD	Master of Education	
Bailey, Hunter L	Bridgewater	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Bang, Signe V			Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Bartel, Mackenzie A	Rochester	MN	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Berger, Zachary J	Crofton	NE	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Beyer, Michael L	Crooks	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Bila, Chance C	Rapid City	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Black, Allison	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Blakeley, Jonathon C	Dallas	TX	Master of Science	
Blauwet, Kael S	Larchwood	IA	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude



MOUNT MARTY

UNIVERSITY

Blomme, Emma D	Rapid City	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Blumenstein, Sophia G	Makawao	HI	Master of Science	
Boldt, Kristina M	Mesa	AZ	Master of Science in Nursing	
Bondoc, Juan J	Laredo	TX	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
Boulger, Carley M	Loveland	CO	Master of Science	
Boyle, Riley J	Aurora	CO	Master of Science	
Brink, Courtney J	Wayne	NE	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Summa Cum Laude
Brits, Jadon L			Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Brock, Claire R	West Fargo	ND	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Bussinger, Brielle G	Bassett	NE	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Cum Laude
Carbajal, Jacob R	Oxnard	CA	Bachelor of Arts	
Carlson, Alyssa L	Wayne	NE	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Summa Cum Laude
Carlson, Zachary M	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Cassidy, Shylah A	Elysian	MN	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Charley, Meghan K	Mandan	ND	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Chrabascz, Matthew T	Fort Collins	CO	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Citarella, Erin	Superior	CO	Master of Science	
Clark, Zachary M	Omaha	NE	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Climmer, Rebecca D	Crofton	NE	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
Conaway, Jacob R	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Cox, Kylee K	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
Crevier, Pierce	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Crispo, Matthew R	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Crum, Jamie K	Cherokee	IA	Master of Science in Nursing	
Culbert, Maelie E	Parkston	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Dahl, Aspen J	Wentworth	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Danzer, Oliver W	Eschenbach I. D. Opf.		Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Dautcehajic, Alexa M	Harrisburg	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
De Araujo Amado, Jose G	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Drellack, Brittny	Sioux Falls	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Dvorak, Kendra D	Clarkson	NE	Post-Master's PMHNP Certificate	
Elliott, Matthew M	San Diego	CA	Bachelor of Arts	
Enney, Brooke M	Arvada	CO	Master of Science	
Even, Alexis A	Parker	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Cum Laude
Fargo, Seth	Gayville	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Feldman, Krystal	Humboldt	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	



MOUNT MARTY

UNIVERSITY

Ferguson, Kaydence B	Fortuna	CA	Bachelor of Arts	
Ferguson, Lane W	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Ferrari, Logan B	Wolfforth	TX	Bachelor of Arts	
Figuerres, Harchie	West Fargo	ND	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Folkers, Alexis J	Saint Helena	NE	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Fonder, Bianca J	Clear Lake	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Forest, Rory A	Sioux Falls	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Frazeur, Heather	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Furst, Mia E	Norfolk	NE	Bachelor of Arts	
Gallegos, Molly K	Omaha	NE	Bachelor of Arts	
Garcia, Jose	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Geffre, Allison L	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Goldade, Paige T	Brandon	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Gómez Vázquez, Ignacio	Sevilla		Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Graunke, Makayla A	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Cum Laude
Gray, McKenzie D	Yankton	SD	Master of Education	
Griese, Kyra J	Aberdeen	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
Guest, Samuel F	Overland Park	KS	Master of Education	
Hanna, Jackie L	Lemmon	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Hansen, Austin R	Moorhead	MN	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Hansen, Olivia R	Wheaton	MN	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Haug, Aron M	Sisseton	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Hebda, Zachary A	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Heitsch, Shaelynne R	Hermosa	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Helle, Ally M	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Hennen, Faith	Taunton	MN	Master of Science in Nursing	
Hickman, Shelby L	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Hinojosa, Taylor A	Spring	TX	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Hirsch, Kyle G	Gayville	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Hochstein, Conner J	Hartington	NE	Bachelor of Arts	
Hoekman, Devan M	Tulare	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Hohman, Carly A	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Holys, Grace C	Columbus	NE	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Summa Cum Laude
Hood, Macala M	Lakeside	NE	Bachelor of Arts	
Hortness, Margaret M	Canton	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Hovelson, Lyssa H	Viroqua	WI	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Huberty, Joseph D	Yankton	SD	Master of Education	



MOUNT MARTY

UNIVERSITY

Jacinto, Kayleen	Fillmore	CA	Bachelor of Arts	
Jaramillo, Laura A	North Oaks	MN	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Jensen, Jacob A	Vermillion	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Jervik, Lindsay N	Hudson	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Johnson, Elly J	Harrisburg	SD	Post-Master's PMHNP Certificate	
Johnson, Jason M	Salem	OR	Master of Science in Nursing	
Joyal, Tyler	Rapid City	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Kadrmass, Sarah	Washburn	ND	Master of Science in Nursing	
Kerkhofs, Wout	Oirschot		Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
King, Ethan J	Bloomington	IL	Master of Science	
Kirby, Alex N	Norfolk	NE	Master of Science in Nursing	
Kleinsasser, Lonnie B	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Knapp, Rachel M	Aberdeen	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Kovacic, Christopher J	Camp Hill	PA	Master of Science	
Kovacic, Xandria	Camp Hill	PA	Master of Science	
Kueny, Jacob A	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
Lambeth, Jacob K	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Laraby, Alec	Yankton	SD	Master of Education	
Larson, Molly L	Gayville	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Lee, Hunter A	Clark	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Lemke, Sheriann L	Gillette	WY	Master of Science in Nursing	
Leuschen, Zachary M	Burlington	IA	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Lew, Sarah E	Eagle	ID	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Lewis, Edward J	Yankton	SD	Associate of Arts	
Ligtenberg, Tatum M	Sturgis	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Summa Cum Laude
Lotz, Christa J	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Summa Cum Laude
Ludemann, Peyton R	Austin	TX	Master of Education	
Mace, Laura	Lakewood	CO	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Mack, Shantel A	Kranzburg	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Marquez Reyes, Edwin J	Platteville	CO	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Martinez, Kaela	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Massa, Carl D	Edgemont	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Mayes, Devon V	West Covina	CA	Bachelor of Arts	
McNac, Brooklyn G	Broken Arrow	OK	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Melick, Grayden T	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Merton, Conor J	Saint Michael	MN	Master of Education	
Meza Hernandez, Camila A	Philadelphia	PA	Master of Science	



MOUNT MARTY

UNIVERSITY

Miller, Gabriella G	New Underwood	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Molskness, Emma M	Dell Rapids	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Monroe, Madelyn E	Box Elder	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Moody, Emily J	Mitchell	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Moreno Navarro, Marcos	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Murphy, Jared D	Watertown	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Murrey, Ashley	Wilton	ND	Post-Master's PMHNP Certificate	
Mutschelknaus, Hanna	Brandon	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Nelson, Emily A	Bayfield	CO	Master of Science	
Nguyen, Quyen	Omaha	NE	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Nord, Truman	Omaha	NE	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Olson, Samuel T	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Ortega, Francisco A	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Parker, Nicole	Rapid City	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Pawlowski, Taya R	Gann Valley	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Magna Cum Laude
Pedersen, Carson R	Hayti	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
Petersen, Sarah E	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Pfaffle, Brookanne N	Arnolds Park	IA	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Phillips, David J	Crofton	NE	Bachelor of Arts	
Pierce, Daniel	Oxnard	CA	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Pimentel, Courtney L	Burlington	CO	Master of Science	
Preszler, Abby	Menno	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Puppe, Deagan C	Coleridge	NE	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
Raihall, Catherine S	West Chester	PA	Master of Science	
Ramirez, Andrew D	Las Vegas	NV	Master of Science	
Redlinger, Kate-Lyn J	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Reichelt, Makenzie E	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Reifenrath, Avery R	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Rice, Justina A	Windsor	CO	Master of Science	
Robertson, Willis J	Vermillion	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Sadler, Tabitha J	Mitchell	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Salazar, Alexandra R	Laredo	TX	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Magna Cum Laude
Sargent, Virginia M	Spearfish	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Savelkoul, Hannah C	Windsor	CO	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Schmidtlein, Hannah M	Box Elder	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Schroeder, Thalen	Spencer	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Simpson, Mary H	Blair	NE	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Cum Laude



MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY

Smith, Courtney L	Saint Charles	MN	Master of Science in Nursing	
Sohler, Corbin R	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Sorensen, Zelie K	O'Neill	NE	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Sorenson, Andrew J	Yankton	SD	Master of Education	
Stammer, Kayla N	Vermillion	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Steadman, Ashley B	Salem	UT	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Sudbeck, Cade H	Elkhorn	NE	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Theroes, Riley M	Wisner	NE	Bachelor of Science	Summa Cum Laude
Thesing, Kimberly A	Rochester	MN	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Thetsane, Molibetsane R	Kansas City	MO	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Thorson, Tyler D	Lone Tree	CO	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Thue, Sidney A	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
Trinidad, Nathaniel R	San Antonio	TX	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
Vance, Tevis T	Blackfoot	ID	Bachelor of Arts	
Vonnegut, Daniel J	Hayward	CA	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Wahlstrom, Josey E	Custer	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Wallin, Michael W	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Walther III, William P	Hill City	SD	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
Ward, Sophia	Fort Collins	CO	Master of Science	
Weber, Julia A	Emery	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Westphalen, Nicholas A	Sioux Falls	SD	Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	
Whatley, Kaylee V	Sturgis	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Wilder, Kira A	Kotzebue	AK	Master of Science	
Williams, Deegan T	Casa Grande	AZ	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Williams, Leah L	Huron	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Wookey, Elizabeth M	Watertown	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
Zohner, Mya R	Battle Creek	NE	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude

Fall 2025 Graduates

Name	City	State	Degree	Honors
Abad, Gabriella C	Fort Collins	CO	Master of Science	-
Allen, Sammy S	YANKTON	SD	Certificate in Horticulture	
Altenburg, Sydney R	Harrisburg	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Archila, Cindy O	Englewood	CO	Master of Science	
Belles, Ronald J	Fort Collins	CO	Master of Science	



MOUNT MARTY

UNIVERSITY

Bender, Zachary T	Bloomington	IN	Master of Science	
Bradshaw, Joe L	Yankton	SD	Certificate in Horticulture	
Brinsley, James T	Seguin	TX	Bachelor of Arts	
Brown, Sierra T	Englewood	CO	Master of Science	
Carrillo, Agustin H	Yankton	SD	Certificate in Management	
Chavez, Jonathan N	Yankton	SD	Certificate in Horticulture	
Conley, Amir A	Spring Valley	CA	Bachelor of Arts	
Davila Aval, Dylan L	Yankton	NJ	Bachelor of Arts	
Dobbs, Ryan M	Alpine	CA	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Dorosh, Lindsey M	Wilmot	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Eggerud, Robert L	Yankton	SD	Certificate in Horticulture	
Gattison, Betty	Florence	SC	Post Master's Certificate in Endocrinology	
Gibler, Jeffrey S	Yankton	SD	Certificate in Management	
Hawkins, Benjamin L	Renner	SD	Master of Science	
Heath, Nicholas D	Hayward	WI	Bachelor of Arts	
Herrboldt, Mitchell L	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Hoover, Jimmy L	Yankton	SD	Certificate in Management	
Hopkins, Tierney R	Lompoc	CA	Master of Science	
Horrach, Jayden D	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Johnson, Ryder M	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Kondo, Shugo	Shizuoka		Bachelor of Arts	
Long, Brittany	Woodbine	IA	Master of Science in Nursing	
Luong, Stephen P	Yankton	SD	Certificate in Horticulture	
Matejek, Shantel J	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Medina, Gonzalo A			Bachelor of Arts	
Meester, Jahna M	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Mirazi, Hosein	Rapid City	SD	Master of Science	
Negley, Josiah D	Yankton	SD	Certificate in Management	
Nelson, Ellie	Wilmington	NC	Master of Science	
Paterson, Jeremy J	Winnetka	CA	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Poore, Robby A	Watertown	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Proudfit, Jason D	Philomath	OR	Bachelor of Arts	
Sander, Britanie N	Gary	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Cum Laude
Schake, Sarah A	Castlewood	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude



Schlimgen, Teegan M	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Silk, Kierra C	Sisseton	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Stinton, Alexis E	Castlewood	SD	Bachelor of Arts	Summa Cum Laude
Sucha, Andrea B	Verdigre	NE	Bachelor of Arts	Magna Cum Laude
Ware, Jack T	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Arts	

August 2025 Graduates

Name	City	State	Degree	Honors
Akerete-Towe, Adebisi	Chesapeake	VA	Post Master's Certificate in Endocrinology	
Amaya, Juan	Hillsboro	MO	Bachelor of Arts	
Burnison, Drake	Spearfish	SD	Master of Science in Nursing	
DeVos, Andrew	Yankton	SD	Certificate in Horticulture	
Finch, Glenn	Eagar	AZ	Post Master's Certificate in Endocrinology	
Gonsor, Zachary	Aberdeen	SD	Bachelor of Science	Cum Laude
Hegdahl, Isaac	Wentworth	SD	Bachelor of Science	
Johnston, Angel	Astoria	OR	Master of Science in Nursing	
Kennelly, Karly	Saint Thomas	ND	Master of Science in Nursing	
Larson, Chad	Yankton	SD	Associate of Arts	
Mahammad, Asmerom	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Martinez-Garcia, Jorge	Yankton	SD	Associate of Arts	
Mosarah, Daniel	Salida	CA	Bachelor of Arts	
Negley, Josiah	Yankton	SD	Associate of Arts	
Nielsen, Brooklyn	Lake Benton	MN	Bachelor of Science	
Northey, Zachary	Yankton	SD	Associate of Arts	
Parker, Mason	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Science	
Phothisarn, Angelina	Vermillion	SD	Bachelor of Science	Magna Cum Laude
Ramos, Cesar	Yankton	SD	Certificate in Management	
Sandblom, Christopher	Yankton	SD	Associate of Arts	
Sandoval, Tyler	Omaha	NE	Bachelor of Arts	
Schmidt, Abbigail	Yankton	SD	Bachelor of Science	Summa Cum Laude
Schuknecht, Landon	Sioux Falls	SD	Bachelor of Science	Summa Cum Laude



MOUNT MARTY

UNIVERSITY

Shah, Rita	Franklin	MI	Post Master's Certificate in Endocrinology	
Spurrell, McKenna	Wakonda	SD	Bachelor of Science	
Stolnack, Jake	El Segundo	CA	Bachelor of Arts	
Sullivan, Jedidiah	Rapid City	SD	Bachelor of Arts	
Tvedt, Tague	Clear Lake	SD	Bachelor of Science	Magna Cum Laude