# Commencement

Penn State Hazleton  
Friday, May 6, 2022  
Dr. Thomas M. Caccese Gymnasium  
7:00 p.m.

# A message from the Chancellor

Dear graduates, families, and friends,

Welcome to the Penn State Hazleton 2022 commencement ceremony! We are honored to celebrate the accomplishments of the men and women who are graduating today. First of all, congratulations to our graduates! Your hard work and determination have helped you achieve this significant milestone in your life. We are proud of what you have accomplished and the academic and personal growth we have witnessed in you. Your degree from Penn State will be a great advantage to you as you begin your career and throughout your life. You join a legacy of Penn State alumni and are always welcome to return to Penn State Hazleton for a visit. To the families of our graduates, thank you for your encouragement and support of our students during their time at Penn State and into the rest of their lives. That support is essential for their success. While this is certainly a milestone for them, marking this new beginning is a milestone for you as well. I know you are even more proud of them than we are. To our friends of the campus, thank you for joining us today and your continued support of our mission of teaching, research, and service that has been the hallmark of Penn State University since its founding. We are glad you were able to visit our campus tonight and celebrate our graduates! From all of us at Penn State Hazleton, thank you for the investments you have made in the lives of these new Penn State alumni. We eagerly anticipate hearing about their achievements and how they are making the lives of others better.

On a personal note, this will be my last time celebrating commencement as chancellor as I am retiring on June 30. I wish to thank all members of the campus, university and local communities who have been so supportive over the last 15 years as we worked so diligently to make Penn State Hazleton a model of student-centeredness both in and out of the classroom. Most importantly, I wish to thank all the students and alumni who served as the inspiration and impetus for what do best at Penn State: enrich the lives of our students.

Best wishes,

Dr. Gary M. Lawler Chancellor

# Commencement Information

To Our Guests

Commencement, the solemn but joyful climax and recognition of the graduates’ years of study, is an important occasion to the University, its faculty, staff, and students. All guests and participants are requested to avoid unnecessary conversation or moving about during the exercises.

Professional photos will be taken of each graduate with the chancellor and after exiting the stage. Visit https://clients.dekkastudios.com/ psu2022may/ and use the PIN 6246 to download web quality images from tonight’s event at no charge. Love an image? Use the safe and secure online shopping cart to order printed photos, fine art prints, mounted prints, canvas wraps, metal prints, bamboo panels, or graduation cards (extra charges apply).

When the processional party enters at the beginning of the ceremony, the audience rises. They remain standing until all members of the platform party have taken their places on the platform. Following the chancellor’s closing remarks, there is a recessional. The audience is requested to remain at their seats during this period. We welcome you to the fifty-second annual commencement exercises for associate and baccalaureate degree candidates at Penn State Hazleton.

# Academic Procession

The medallion worn by Chancellor Gary M. Lawler during the ceremony was instituted by the University in 1971. Symbolizing the authority to confer degrees, the bronze medallion is two and three quarters inches in diameter with the founding date of the University on one side and the founding date of the Hazleton campus on the other side. The mace carried by the Faculty Marshall is inscribed to honor the memory of Marlene Guers who served the campus for nearly thirty years in a range of positions including senior instructor in mathematics, coordinator of the honors program, and assistant director of Academic Affairs. In academic commencement ceremonies, the mace is the symbolic extension of the chancellor. Most often carried in a commencement ceremony at the head of the marchers or immediately ahead of the chancellor, the mace serves as the object vested with the power of the institution.

# Academic Dress

Academic regalia originated in medieval monasteries to distinguish persons such as doctors, masters, and bachelors from the general population. In about 1895, American colleges and universities adopted the uniform code of academic dress that is used today.

# Caps

The traditional cap in the United States for all degrees is a black mortar board. The tassel is usually black, but the doctor’s cap may have a gold tassel.

# Gowns

The design of the traditional academic black gown signifies the degree held. The bachelor’s gown has pointed sleeves, while the master’s gown has oblong sleeves that are open at the wrists. The doctor’s gown has bell-shaped sleeves with three velvet chevrons.

# Hoods

Hoods are usually not worn by recipients of the bachelor’s degree. The master’s hood is three-and-a-half feet long and the doctor’s hood is four feet long. The linings of the hoods are in official colors of the university conferring the degree. The velvet hood trim indicates the subject of the degree. Some colors associated with the disciplines include: arts, letter, and humanities – white; business – drab; economics – copper; education – light blue; engineering – orange; fine arts – brown; journalism – crimson; music – pink; speech – silver; philosophy – dark blue; physical education – sage green; science – golden yellow; and social work – citron.

# Cords

An honor cord provides an outward sign that these particular students have excelled in the classroom or have served or are serving our nation with pride. Academic honor cords recognize the top 12 percent of degree candidates in each college and at every campus. Students who are graduating Summa Cum Laude are wearing a blue and white cord, students who are graduating Magna Cum Laude are wearing a blue cord, and students who are graduating Cum Laude are wearing a white cord. Adult students excelling in the classroom while facing competing interests of home and work are recognized with membership into Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society. Members of Alpha Sigma Lambda are wearing a burgundy and gold cord. Students who have honorably served, are serving, or are commissioned to serve in the U.S. military will be awarded an honor cord in recognition of their duty and sacrifice. The red, white and blue cords will be given to eligible graduating students in the following groups: active duty, reserve and National Guard service members; veterans; and graduates receiving a commission through Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) and official U.S. Armed Forces recruiting programs.

Our graduates awarded an honor cord in recognition of their duty and sacrifice: Christopher James Krout.

# About Our Commencement Speaker

Gary M. Lawler  
Penn State Hazleton Chancellor

Gary M. Lawler was named chancellor of Penn State Hazleton in July 2007. On June 30, 2022, he will retire after 15 years of service to Penn State. He has been an active member of numerous committees since joining Penn State, including Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, Campus Engagement in India, the Commission for Adult Learners, the Prior Learning Assessment Committee, the University-wide Academic Infrastructure and Support working group, and the planning committee for the University’s current fundraising campaign, “A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence.” His numerous accomplishments at the campus include increased programming, the formation of an enrollment management team, a comprehensive strategic plan, increased diversity, and campus beautification. Lawler has overseen many initiatives that have helped to provide an improved student experience focused on individualized attention and mentoring, including a $7.6 million renewal project on the Mary M. and Bertil E. Lofstrom Library completed in 2020 and a $15.5 million renovation of the Kostos Building completed in 2017. Lawler also led the efforts to revitalize the Slusser/Bayzick Building, which included the creation of the Black Box Theatre, a multifunctional space for performances and learning, and dedicated classrooms and laboratories for students in health care programs offered by the Office of Continuing Education (CE). Additional campus infrastructure and beautification initiatives include the Barbara J. and Ronald L. Balasco Sr. Bella Vista, Dr. Lil Junas Garden, and an extensive roadway project. In addition to growth and improvements in the physical plant, the number of four-year baccalaureate degrees increased from five to 13, and a wide range of student-centered initiatives related to retention, student success, and diversity, equity and inclusion were instituted. He was also involved in articulation agreements with three area community colleges and the Vidyalankar School of Information Technology, Mumbai, India, which allow students to seamlessly transition from their starting institution program into a Penn State baccalaureate degree program at many campuses. Lawler also helped to establish practical nursing as an anchor program for the campus’ CE office. Since the program launched in 2010, it has graduated more than 250 students and spurred the development of additional health care education programs offered through CE. During his tenure, support for students through scholarships, awards, program endowments and special funds has doubled, allowing the campus to provide funding to twice as many students seeking to earn a Penn State degree. Additionally, he contributed to the effort to revitalize downtown Hazleton by leading and partnering with several community organizations to develop the Hazleton LaunchBox supported by Pasco L. Schiavo Esq., which opened in downtown Hazleton in Sept. 2019. In April 2019, the Hazleton LaunchBox was the third innovation hub in the University to be endowed and named for a benefactor after the campus received a gift of $1 million from the estate of longtime supporter and philanthropist Pasco L. Schiavo. Lawler has also worked on town and gown relationships in the Hazleton community through his service to the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, CAN DO economic development organization, Alice C. Wiltsie Performing Arts Center, Hazleton Area Public Library, Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress, Partners in Education and Rotary, just to name a few. In June 2018, he was recognized by the Concerned Parents of Hazleton Area for his guidance, dedication, and advocacy when he received the group’s Humanitarian Award during their tenth anniversary celebration. Lawler began his academic career teaching mathematics at Adirondack Community College in Queensbury, New York, where he ultimately earned the rank of full professor. His teaching career at Adirondack lasted 23 years until he was named assistant to the vice president of academic affairs. In 2001, he became academic dean at the College of St. Joseph, Rutland, Vermont, and in 2004 was named vice president of academic and student affairs. Lawler earned an associate degree in mathematics/science from Adirondack Community College and a bachelor’s degree with a double major in mathematics and theater from the State University of New York College at Brockport. He also holds a master’s degree in mathematics and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University at Albany.

Fifty-Second Annual

Spring 2022 Commencement Program

**Procession led by:** Barbara Brazon, M.S.I.T., PMP; Program Coordinator and Associate Teaching Professor of Information Sciences and Technology; President, Penn State Hazleton Faculty Senate; Faculty Marshal.

**Welcome:** Gary M. Lawler, A.S., B.S., M.A., Ph.D.; Chancellor

“Star Spangled Banner”

**Remarks:** Alessandra Banta ’22, President, Student Government Association

**Greetings from the Penn State Hazleton Council:** Sharon E. Rohrbach, B.S., D.O. ’69; President, Penn State Hazleton Council

**Presentation of Associate Degree candidates:** Maggie Gordon Froehlich, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.; Associate Director of Academic Affairs

**Conferring of Degrees:** Dr. Lawler

**Musical Interlude:** Ruth Hunter; Harpist

**Presentation of Baccalaureate Degree candidates:** Elizabeth J. Wright, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Office of the Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses; Director of Academic Affairs, Penn State Hazleton

**Conferring of Degrees:** Dr. Lawler

**Musical Interlude:** Ruth Hunter; Harpist

**Recognition of 2019-2022 Graduates:** Dr. Froehlich

**Recognition of Scholastic Distinction and Veterans:** Dr. Wright

**Kostos Awards:** Dinesh “Dan” Patel, B.S., Ph.D.; Assistant Professor of Chemistry

**Introduction of Commencement Speaker:** Ms. Brazon

**Address:** Dr. Lawler

**Induction into Penn State Alumni Association:** Sandra Lagana, B.S. ’82; President, Hazleton Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association

**Alma Mater**

**Chancellor’s Remarks:** Dr. Lawler

**Recessional**

# Associate Degree Candidates Associate in Science University College Information Sciences and Technology

Yeudis Gomez Medina

# Medical Laboratory Technology

Alyssa L. Brown

Rebecca Cindy Cannon

Tami Marie Christ

Marissa Anne McMullen

Heather Marie Schlenker

# Physical Therapist Assistant

Rebecca Baum

Krista Carlin

Madeline Dincher

Madison Felty

Willow Forney

Amanda Grant

Janelle Grant

Alexa Hillabold

Abigail Jacobs

Kevin Klock

Abigail Majeski

Shane Miller

Erica Peterson

Alaine Rosado

Jonathan Torres

Tamara Wagner

Kyle Whipple

# Baccalaureate Degree Candidates Bachelor of Arts University College Administration of Justice

Sadie Victoria Heiney

Meliah Kennedy

# Corporate Communication

Kayla Marie DiSabella

Jacob Morgan

# Criminal Justice

Benitta Bruce

Naomi Caridad Rodriguez

# Letters, Arts, and Sciences

Cassidy Lentz

# Psychology

Somery Abreu De La Cruz

Alessandra Banta

Hayley A. Fellin

Luxaida Hernandez

Meliah Kennedy

Samy M. Lopez

Zorangel Sosa

Chelsea Marie Welch

# Bachelor of Science College of Engineering Engineering

Mark Brady

Christopher James Digon

Clayton Josiah Kimsal

Nathan T. Pauselli

# University College Administration of Justice

Sky Taylor Esterly

Stefany Rodriguez

Deonna Zamudio

Nikolas Edward Zasada

# Business

Nicolas Ahn

Justin Anziani

Junior Aneudis Arias

Karla Cabrera Blanco

Nicholas John Bradley

Becky V. Cruz

Cesarina Del Rosario Caraballo

Daniel Gene Frisk

Molly Elizabeth Isom

Christopher James Krout

Andrew Kwiatkowski

Lizbeth Luna Araujo

Yinette Martinez Landeta

Nicholas Maruschak

Sara A. Miglas

Ariana Rose Paulhamus

Taylor Rudden

Nathan Shiner

Colin Stauffer

Jacob Michael Taschler

McKayla Wildrick

# Criminal Justice

Caitlyn Ashelman

Zakary Joseph Johnson

Dustin Rentschler

Aubrey Madelyn Smith

Melanie Evadne Tejada

Joan Vasquez

# Health Policy and Administration

Daniel Gendimenico

Michael Gryskevicz

Nikki Irene O’Neil

# Information Sciences and Technology

Noah Ancharski

Andy Familia

Kevin Gustave

Tyler Hall

Kyle Robert Harro

Cassidy Lugo

Zachary Perkowski

Vielka E. Saldana

# Project and Supply Chain Management

Nicholas John Bradley

Cesarina Del Rosario Caraballo

Christopher James Krout

Andrew Kwiatkowski

Nicholas Maruschak

Ariana Rose Paulhamus

Nicole Salerno

# Psychology

Jacob Buckley

Nicole M. Fisher

Mikayla Neaus

# Rehabilitation and Human Services

Esmeralda Castro

Michelle Dean

Lilly Fitt

Sierra Gratti

Brian Kunkel

Kaylee J. Mauser

Jasmini Morillo

Nicole Paranich

Ashley Marie Slattery

Cheyenne Stoneroad

Nicholas Strubinger

Nicholas Vital

# Honors Group

This group is made up of those students who have completed the required number of credits at the University and who are in the top 12 percent of their graduating class in their college. The 12 percent is divided into 2 percent “SUMMA CUM LAUDE.” 4 percent “MAGNA CUM LAUDE.” 6 percent “CUM LAUDE.” This list was produced April 28, 2022, as an unofficial list of graduating students earning honors.

# Summa Cum Laude

Alyssa L. Brown

Clayton Josiah Kimsal

# Magna Cum Laude

Cesarina Del Rosario Caraballo

Cassidy Lugo

# Cum Laude

Mark Brady

Tyler Hall

Christopher James Krout

Sara A. Miglas

Nikki Irene O’Neil

Zorangel Sosa

Nicholas Vital

Nikolas Edward Zasada

# 2020 Associate Degree Candidates Associate in Arts University College Letters, Arts, and Sciences

Brandon Reshard Mohammed

# Associate in Science University College Business

Alexis Lynn Ankiewicz

David Dewitt

Jack Theillon

# Medical Laboratory Technology

Nataly Arias

Damaris Ayala

Alyssa Marie Casiano

Hannah Eberwein

Natalie Iona Faybisovich

Amanda Frances Kalenkoski

Mya Miranda

Benjamin Douglas Raines

Ryan Sassani

Lizabeth Mary Schrader

Megan Taylor

Marc Vella-Hunlock

Ashley Vought

# Physical Therapist Assistant

Jordan Alguire

Nicole Andress

Esmeralda Castro

Breonna Catherman

Jossel Concepcion

Devin Conlon

Lauren Creveling

Erin Dull

Ryan Glacken

Emma Glezen

Madeline Heim

Emily Howell

Nicholas Hreha

Bekah Keim

Kathleen Kenney

Hailey Kupusnick

Selina Malacari

Amanda Mechling

Leatha Monkoski

Meghan Moyer

Torie Naradko

Felisha Nunez

Nicole Paranich

Cassandra Passamonte

Kaylee Rodgers

Josey Rupert

Kelsie Salem

Vanessa Shedlock

Emma Stinnett

Sarah Stock

Trevor Wilkinson

Emma Wyllie

Madison Young

Jessica Zimmerman

# Bachelor of Arts University College Corporate Communication

Robert Andrew Hopkins

Abby Kathryn Markle

Mekenzie Wolfe

# Letters, Arts, and Sciences

Breann A. Fetterman

Katelyn Oldziejewski

Meghann Marie Principe

# Psychology

Yulissa Arias

Nathalie Contreras

Morine Joseph

Nathaniel Kocher

Victoria Maldonado-Colombani

Janil Munoz

Angela M. Strohl

Andrew Vargas

Richard Wilcox, Jr.

# Bachelor of Science College of Engineering Engineering

James Dotzel

Cody Freeman George

Bryan Kowalick

Gregory Lyons

Melanie Mejia

Panayoti Saras

Lilly Singh

Isaac C. Whitenight

Emery Zaleski

# College of Health & Human Development Biobehavioral Health

Catherine Pizarro-Rosario

# University College Administration of Justice

Christopher Adames

Eric Macker

Kaylee E. Chyko

Carlos Enrique Colado, Jr.

Jake Robert Lezott

Jonte William Washington

# Business

Andrew Brink

Mark Buchinsky

Kaitlee Dewitt

Olivia Elswick

Casey Alexa Grover

Tristen J. Johnson

Rylee Marie Kane

Anthony T. Kimsal

Carina Madera

Carolina Madera

Catherine Maher

Elizabeth Michalochick

Salma Munoz Hernandez

Cordell Muthler

Frederick Pfeiffer

Miguel Alexander Polanco

Joshua Provost

# Information Sciences and Technology

Caleb David Carpenter

Jerrika Saige Chorba

James Cusate

Aaron Kacyon

Christopher C. Kurdziel

Andrew Lowin

Crismery Paredes

Sean Paterson

Madison Polumbo

Seth Porpiglia

Andry Sanchez

Joshua Sterling

Joseph Vanik

# Project & Supply Chain Management

Hernan Aquino

Jared Kolbush

Christopher William Jones

# Psychology

Sha-Lyjha S. Moore

Joanne Barbara Supko

# Rehabilitation and Human Services

Andrea Nicole Alcantara

Cassandra Lynn Book

Samantha Catania

Lauren Degler

Tahiry Dominguez

Lauren Dragon

Moriah Graaf

Molly Granza

Kasey Jackson

Leeishla Marie Jimenez

Jacob Peters

Ariel Rowlands

Francis Tapia

Victoria Warg

# Academic Awards Frank C. Kostos Award

This award honors the late Frank C. Kostos, who ended a 27-year affiliation with Penn State Hazleton when he retired as campus director in 1973. It was established by the Penn State Hazleton Council, the campus advisory board. This award is made annually to three students as follows: 1. to the full-time student with the highest grade-point average in Penn State course work and enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at the end of the sophomore year; 2. to the full-time Penn State Hazleton baccalaureate degree student with the highest grade-point average in Penn State course work who intends to graduate; 3. to the full-time Penn State Hazleton associate degree student with the highest grade-point average in Penn State course work who intends to graduate. The Kostos Award consists of a cash award and a replica of the Nittany Lion.

### Baccalaureate Degree

Kayla Witcher  
Digital Media, Arts and Technology

# Penn State Hazleton Baccalaureate Degree

Clayton Josiah Kimsal  
Engineering

# Penn State Hazleton Associate Degree

Alyssa L. Brown  
Medical Laboratory Technology

## Penn State Hazleton Council

### Campus Advisory Board Members

Sharon E. Rohrbach, D.O. - President

John J. Beltrami - First Vice President

Joseph P. Clifford - Second Vice President

Betty M. Corcoran - Secretary

Anthony N. Cusatis - Treasurer

Lisa R. Schugardt - Immediate Past President

Donna M. Barna, Matthew B. Bayzick, Gordon L. Bigelow, J.D., Robert J. Caccese, Denise M. Corcoran, Neal DeAngelo III, Fermin Diaz, Joseph A. Donato, D.M.D., Rocco Formica, Harsh Gandhi, M.D., Brian M. Harman, Terry H. Jones, Megan Kennedy, Esq., Mary Celeste Kosko, Gary F. Lamont, Linda Z. Lease, Ph.D., Joseph F. Lettiere, Zena-Marie Lewoc, John R. Meier Jr., Donald M. Pachence, David Seamon, and Christopher B. Slusser, Esq

Ex-Officio: Sandra M. Lagana, Gary M. Lawler, Ph.D., Brittany Major, Dixie J. McCoy, State Representative Tarah Toohil, Brian T. Uplinger, Tiffany P. Veet, Elizabeth J. Wright, Ph.D., and State Senator John T. Yudichak.

Directors Emeriti: William J. Flood, Eugene F. Gallagher, and Joseph G. Rudawski.

# Program Notes Reception:

Co-sponsored by the Greater Hazleton Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association and the Penn State Hazleton Alumni Society.

Announcers:  
Pamela Black, B.A, M.A., Ph.D.

Barbara Brazon, B.S. Ed., M.S.I.T.

Charles Dewald, B.A., M.A.

Lisa Goguen, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Beth Greenberg, B.A., M.P.A., M.A.

Garrett Huck, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

Zugang (Leo) Liu, B.S., MSCE, Ph.D.

Joshua Parcha, A.S., B.S., M.A., Ph.D.

Rosemarie Petrilla, B.H.S., M.P.T., D.P.T.

Joseph Ranalli, B.S., Ph.D.

Lori Reno, B.A., M.B.A.

Amie Yenser, B.S., M.S.

Greeters:  
Karen Beruck

Michele Foust

Lauren Panisak-Millbyer

Emily Zocchi

Lion Ambassadors:  
Chris Machado

Heather Lorah

Jewel Newbern

Shayla Heitczman

Kahlan Ciardullo

Matthew Janson

Faculty Guides:  
Karen Stylianides, B.S., M.S.

Daniel Gutierrez, B.A., M.A., M.A.

# Graduate Gifts:

Thank you to the following departments and organizations for contributing gifts to our graduates:

Greater Hazleton Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association, Penn State Hazleton Alumni Society

## A message from the Penn State Alumni Association

### Welcome to the Pride!

Congratulations on your graduation, and welcome to the Penn State Alumni Association —the largest and most powerful alumni network in the world. New graduates receive a complimentary one-year membership in the Penn State Alumni Association. As you enter the pride, you’ll join the ranks of alumni who keep their connection to Penn State strong through membership. We encourage you to stay connected and learn more about the 30+ benefits that are included with your membership. Membership materials, including your membership card, will be mailed to you after graduation. Benefits are available to you immediately upon receiving your membership card.

### Exclusive Member Benefits

##### Career and Education

Alumni Career Services: Attend premium Alumni Career Service events for free or at a substantial discount.

• Discounts on Kaplan Test Preparation Services

• Alumni Library Online: Exclusive access to Penn State Libraries Digitized

Collections and University library databases.

##### Alumni Email

Members of the Alumni Association can sign up for a personal Penn State email account (@alumni.psu.edu). Accounts are hosted by Google for Education and also include unlimited online storage and a collection of digital tools.

##### Discounts

Members receive access to discounts including travel and merchandise at Penn State Bookstore campus locations. They also receive access to discounted health, auto, renters, home, life, long-term care, and pet insurance.

Additional benefits include early invitations to Alumni Association events, access to the Alumni Directory, publications including the Penn Stater magazine, and much more!

To access a full list of membership benefits and to find your local Penn State Alumni Association chapter, visit: alumni.psu.edu/newalumni.