

# MISSION STATEMENT

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Rocky Vista University  
provides quality healthcare education  
while inspiring students to serve with  
compassion, integrity, and excellence.



## ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY | UTAH

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Class of 2025 Commencement

TENTH OF MAY  
TWO-THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE



# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

## PROCESSIONAL

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Erik Newland, OMS I

### INVOCATION

Amberly Reynolds, PhD

## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENT OF PURPOSE, AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S CHARGE

Francina Towne, PhD

MSBS Program Director

Professor of Immunology

## GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Peabody, MD, PhD

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

## CLASS PRESIDENT COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Stephen Russ

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Laura Rosch, DO, CS, MS, FACOI

Campus Dean

## CLASS AWARDS

Janée Terwoord, PhD

## PRESENTATION AND HOODING OF THE MSBS CLASS

## CONFERRAL OF MSBS DEGREE AND TASSEL CEREMONY

David Forstein, DO, FACOOG (Dist.)

President; CEO, Chief Academic Officer, and Interim Provost

## CLOSING REMARKS

David Forstein, DO, FACOOG (Dist.)

## RECESSIONAL

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear MSBS Class of 2025, families, faculty, and members of the RVU community,

Today is a celebration, not only for the students, but for everyone who has played a foundational role in their lives. They would not be here today if not for your love and support.

Graduates, thank you for the trust you have placed in us. You have worked hard and have overcome obstacles to be one step closer to achieving your professional goals. We look forward to seeing the wonderful things you will accomplish.

As you transition from RVU Students to Alumni, please express gratitude to those who have helped you on your journey – your family, friends, faculty, and staff – all of whom stood with you to cheer you on during the good times, as well as those challenging moments, and now share the sense of pride and accomplishment with you. Also remember that you are always a part of the RVU Family. Never stop learning, growing in mind, body and spirit and become an integral member of the communities you will serve.

We look forward to your future accomplishments and know that you will make us proud!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Forstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David A. Forstein, DO, FACOOG (Dist.)  
President and CEO  
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER



## **Laura Rosch, DO, CS, MS, FACOI**

Laura Rosch is a board-certified Osteopathic Internist from Chicago. She completed her medical school education in 1990 and went on to do a residency in Internal Medicine followed by Fellowship in Endocrinology at Olympia Fields Osteopathic Health Center.

Dr. Rosch worked for Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago for over 23 years and has been involved in medical education her entire career. She has also served as program Director for Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Chicago and held the positions of Internal Medicine

Department Chair at the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. She was also the Joplin Campus Dean for Kansas City University.

Currently, Dr. Rosch is the Campus Dean for Rocky Vista University's Ivins location. She is actively involved in the medical community as she serves on the boards for the American College of Osteopathic Internists and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. She is the current President for the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society.

# MSBS FACULTY AND STAFF

**BENJAMIN BROOKS, PhD**

Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences;  
Clerkship Director of Research;  
Clinical Research Advisor

**COURTNEY CAMPBELL**  
Program Coordinator

**ASHLIE FRANK**  
Administrative Assistant

**RICARDA HALLSTRAND, PhD**  
Professor of Microbiology

**DAWNETT HANN**  
Program Coordinator

**MELISSA HENDERSON, PhD, MEd**  
Vice Chair of Biomedical Sciences;  
Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences

**CHRISTINA LEWIS, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Physiology

**ELIZABETH MOFFETT-GEORGE, PhD**  
Assistant Director of MSBS Program;  
Associate Professor of Anatomical Sciences

**JOHNATHON OLIVAS, DO**  
Assistant Professor of Anatomy

**ANTHONY PAPPAS, PhD**

Vice Chair of Anatomical Sciences;  
Assistant Professor of Gross Anatomy

**AMBERLY REYNOLDS, PhD, MS**  
Assistant Professor of Anatomy;  
Co-Chair Faculty Development

**JOEL ROBERTS, MD**  
Assistant Director of MSBS Program;  
Associate Professor of Physiology

**INDER SEHGAL, DVM, PhD, CPHT.**  
Professor of Pharmacology

**JANÉE TERWOORD, PhD**  
Assistant Director of MSBS Program;  
Assistant Professor of Physiology

**BRAD THORNOCK, PhD, MPH**  
Associate Professor of Medical Humanities

**FRANCINA TOWNE, PhD**  
Director of MSBS Program;  
Professor of Immunology

**QING ZHONG, MD, PhD**  
Professor of Pharmacology

# MSBS CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION AWARDS

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The MSBS President's Award recognizes a graduate who embodies the University's core values of collegiality, compassion, diversity, equity, excellence, inclusivity, innovation, integrity, and service.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

The MSBS Academic Excellence Award recognizes a graduate who has demonstrated academic excellence.

## HUMANITARIAN AWARD

This MSBS Humanitarian Award recognizes a graduate who exemplifies the qualities of graciousness and humility, advocates for social justice, and works for the betterment of all members of their community.

## SERVICE AWARD

The MSBS Service Award recognizes a graduate who demonstrated involvement, leadership, and contributions to service efforts.



# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES CLASS OF 2025

**RASHID ADEN**

Bachelor of Science  
Fitchburg State University - Fitchburg, MA

**JAREN T. ASHBY**

Bachelor of Science  
Brigham Young University - Provo

**GABRIEL E. BAILEY**

Bachelor of Science  
Truman State University - Kirksville

**ANDY CHEN**

Bachelor of Science - Nursing  
New York Institute of Technology

**ELIANA DeMATTIA**

Bachelor of Science - Biology -  
Emphasis in Pre-Medicine - Minor in Psychology  
Grand Canyon University

**VINCE ENFIELD**

Bachelor of Arts  
Southern Utah University

**EMMA GARZELLA**

Bachelor of Science & Master of Public Health  
Purdue University

**ELYSSA MAE GRINFELD**

Bachelor of Science - Biological Sciences  
University of California - Irvine

**KEVIN GUO**

Bachelor of Science  
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

**CARLENS JEAN**

Bachelor of Arts - Chemistry  
Florida International University

**RYAN JOAS**

Bachelor of Science - Biology  
Utah Tech University

**KADE LEWIS**

Bachelor of Science  
University of Utah

**TYSON MACLENNAN**

Bachelor of Science  
Utah Valley University

**JIA MOORE**

Bachelor of Arts  
University of Colorado - Boulder

**JOHN PATTERSON**

Bachelor of Science - Mechanical Engineering  
Utah Valley University

**NICK M. RODRIGUES**

Bachelor of Science  
University of Colorado, Boulder

**STEPHEN AUGUSTINE RUSS**

Bachelor of Science  
University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

**VANESSA SARRAZIN**

Bachelor of Science  
University of Utah

**DILLON SORENSEN**

Bachelor of Biology  
Utah State University

**TASNESSHADE T. STONE**

Bachelor of Science  
Buffalo State University

**ISABELLA WELLS-LUSSIER**

Bachelor of Arts - Political Science  
Marquette University

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Rocky Vista University Alumni Association was established in 2012 to create an active and united organization for graduates, dedicated to advancing osteopathic medical education and related health and biomedical sciences. Members of the Association mentor current students, interview prospective applicants, and participate in networking events. The Alumni Association also identifies sources for clinical rotations, internships, and residency programs, while educating the public on their importance for students and graduates. Additionally, the Association provides scholarships to incoming students at Rocky Vista University.



# THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION



The Presidential Medallion of Rocky Vista University is crafted from brass and weighs 24 ounces. It features the RVU seal in blue and gold. The chain includes two plates depicting the Rod of Asclepius - a snake encircling a staff, symbolizing medicine and healthcare in the United States. Additionally, there are nine plates representing RVU's core values: Collegiality, Compassion, Diversity, Equity, Excellence, Inclusivity, Innovation, Integrity, and Service. Above the seal, four plates display the current President, David A. Forstein, DO, FACOOG (dist.), along with three previous Presidents: Clinton E. Adams, DO, Cheryl D. Lovell, PhD, and Robert R. Roehrich, PhD. The Medallion is worn by the sitting President during commencement ceremonies and, when not in use, is displayed in the President's Suite.

# THE UNIVERSITY MACE

Historically, the mace has symbolized authority in the military, originally serving as a weapon to protect the king. As the tradition of carrying a mace into battle faded, it became popular in governmental ceremonies. By the 15th century, the mace had found its way into university settings, primarily associated with commencement ceremonies.

With the Class of 2012 Commencement approaching, Rocky Vista University sought the perfect mace to represent the institution. The available options were made of metal, looked generic, and didn't reflect RVU's identity. Therefore, RVU decided to commission a unique creation.

Chuck Hunsberger, the husband of former Associate Director of Admissions Katy Hunsberger, was tasked with carving the mace from wood. As a skilled woodworker, Chuck used over five types of Colorado wood to craft an elegant yet rustic mace that truly embodied RVU's spirit. This mace has been present at every commencement ceremony since its debut at the inaugural class graduation in 2012.

