



UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

# 2025

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Angel of the Winds Arena | Everett, Washington



## Dear SPU Class of 2025,

Congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone. Today, we honor not only what you have achieved, but also who you have become through the journey. Whether you arrived as a first-year or a transfer student, your time at Seattle Pacific University has been marked by perseverance, growth, and transformation — academically, personally, and spiritually.

You began your studies in uncertain times, yet you moved forward with determination and hope. Along the way, you discovered new passions, formed enduring friendships, and shaped communities grounded in grace. You brought creativity, courage, and leadership that have strengthened this campus and left a lasting imprint.

As you leave SPU, you carry with you more than a degree. You bring the depth of your learning, the clarity of your calling, and the character formed in a community that believes in your potential. Rooted in Christian faith, your SPU education has equipped you to lead, to serve, and to bring hope and healing wherever you go. You are prepared to meet the challenges of this world with wisdom, compassion, and purpose.

Though your time as a student may conclude, your connection to SPU does not. The faculty who taught and mentored you, the classmates who supported you, and the community that celebrated you — all remain part of your story. We hope you will stay connected to your Falcon family in the years ahead.

As you step into the future, go with confidence. May you shine the light of Christ in your work, your relationships, and your community. The world needs your voice and your gifts.

With Prayer and Optimism,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Deana L. Porterfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "D" at the beginning.

Deana L. Porterfield  
President

# 2025

## Undergraduate Commencement Program

Deana L. Porterfield, EdD, President, Presiding

### Processional

**Heralding Trumpet, Ryan Berg**

Class of 2025, BA in Music

### Welcome

**Deana L. Porterfield, EdD**

President

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### Hymn: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

*(please stand)*

By Thomas O. Chisholm; music by William M. Runyan

#### SPU Choral Ensemble

Led by Ryan Ellis, DMA, Assistant Professor of Music; Director of Choral Music

#### “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions,  
they fail not;

As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

#### *Refrain*

*Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see.*

*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

#### *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

#### *Refrain*

*Used by permission: CCLI #18723.*

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### Invocation *(please stand)*

**Paul Yost, PhD**

Associate Professor of Industrial-Organizational Psychology; Director of IOP Applied Learning and Development

### Scripture Reading

**Acts 1:8**

**Grace Seo, PhD**

Associate Director of Educational Technology and Media

### Announcement of the 2025

### President’s Citation Award Recipient

**Deana L. Porterfield, EdD**

President

### Introduction of Speaker

**Deana L. Porterfield, EdD**

President

### Commencement Address

**“Living as a Witness in a Changing World”**

**Dina González-Piña**

An experienced pastoral and administrative leader in multicultural ministries

### Awarding of Degrees

**Dean Kato**

Chair, SPU Board of Trustees

**Deana L. Porterfield, EdD**

President

*Degrees are conferred by school.*

*Please note that graduates will not*

*process in alphabetical order.*

### Presentation of Candidates

### for Degrees

**M. Kathleen Lustyk, PhD**

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer

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### Seattle Pacific University

### Alma Mater *(please stand)*

## **Presiding Faculty Marshal**

**Derek Wood, PhD**

Professor of Biology

*College of Arts and Sciences*

## **University Mace-Bearer**

**Leland Saunders, PhD**

Past Faculty Chair

Professor of Philosophy

*College of Arts and Sciences*

## **Faculty Marshals**

**Kevin Neuhouser, PhD**

Faculty Chair

Professor of Sociology

*College of Arts and Sciences*

**Melani Plett, PhD**

Incoming Faculty Chair

Director of Engineering and Computer Science

Programs; Professor and Chair of Electrical

Engineering and Biomedical Engineering

*College of Arts and Sciences*

**Carlos Arias, PhD**

Associate Professor and Chair

of Computer Science

*College of Arts and Sciences*

**Katherine Douglass, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies

*School of Theology*

**Katya Drozdova, PhD**

Professor of Business, Information Systems,

and Political Science

*School of Business, Government,*

*and Economics*

**Krystle Jalalian-Chursky, PhD**

Assistant Professor and Director of

Undergraduate Special Education

*School of Education*

**Paul Kim, PhD**

Professor of Psychology

*School of Psychology, Family, and Community*

**Heidi Monroe, PhD**

Associate Professor of Nursing

*School of Health Sciences*

## **Commencement Readers**

**Lorelle Jabs, PhD**

Associate Professor of Communication

*College of Arts and Sciences*

**Andrew Ryder, PhD**

Professor of Theatre Education

Associate Dean

*College of Arts and Sciences*

## **Color Guard**

SPU Student Veterans

## **Banner Carriers**

Members of the Seattle Pacific Community

# Commencement Speaker



## Dina González-Piña

Dina González-Piña, a leader in California's Central Valley, has spent decades serving her community through Christian higher education and nonprofit leadership.

She spent over 23 years at Fresno Pacific University as associate dean of multicultural ministries and holds degrees in education and social work, plus a leadership certificate from Fuller Theological Seminary. González-Piña served nine years on the Christian Community Development Association board and currently serves on the boards of Seattle Pacific University, the Fresno Latino Leadership Network, and the Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren. Since 2020, she has been the regional executive director of the West Coast Mennonite Central Committee, leading efforts in relief, development, and peace in the name of Jesus Christ. She advocates for racial equity and leadership development. González-Piña is married to Dr. Xavier Piña and has two college-age children, Samuel and Rebecca.

# History of Academic Clothing

The traditions surrounding academic regalia — gown and cap — date back to the 13th century and have their roots in clerical garments, which were the earliest form of academic attire in England. The academic gown was first used at the University of Cambridge in 1284. American universities adopted the first Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume in 1895. The American Council on Education later standardized the use of academic regalia in 1932.

Originally adopted as a way of affirming unity in the common pursuit of learning, as well as ensuring warmth in unheated stone buildings, academic regalia is now considered traditional attire for high-ceremony academic occasions. Participants wear regalia that demonstrates — by design and color — their highest academic degree, the general discipline in which they studied, and the university from which they received their degree.

At Commencement, graduates place the tassel for their mortarboard cap on the right side, moving it to the left when their degrees are conferred. Faculty members participating in academic ceremonies wear the tassel to the left throughout the proceedings.

Seattle Pacific University proudly participates in this colorful tradition, which recognizes our part in the larger academic community and celebrates the importance of Commencement as a high ceremony.





# Baccalaureate Degree Recipients

(LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH A)

## **Abigail Grace Abbott**

Cum Laude

Nutrition and Dietetics, BS

## **Alyse Marie Kaleiolani Abraham**

Cum Laude

Nursing, BS

## **Fransiskus Xaverius Agapa**

Computer Science, BA

## **Angelica S. Agcaoili**

Cum Laude

Integrated Studies, BA

## **Sky Leena Agpawa**

Nursing, BS

## **Abisag Aguilar-Romero**

English, BA

## **Uriah Jesus Cruz Aguon**

Cum Laude

English, BA

## **Samantha M. Agustin**

Chemistry, BA

## **Renner Agyemang**

Interior Design, BA

## **Ahmed M. Ahmed I**

Exercise Science, BS

## **Elaine Yae Ahn**

Nursing, BS

## **Alyssa Marie Ahnell**

Cum Laude

Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, BA

## **Ali S. Al-Tamimi**

Physiology, BS

## **Yassir Alaoui Mdaghri**

Cum Laude

Business Administration, BA

## **Daniel Allen**

Magna Cum Laude

Economics, BA

## **Marjolene Allossogbe**

Biochemistry, BS

## **Thania Consuella Penielle Allossogbe**

Biochemistry, BS

## **Reem Altwaim**

Business Administration, BA

## **Tyler J. Ammons**

Magna Cum Laude

Business Administration, BA

## **Jordyn Kathleen Anderson**

Applied Human Biology, BS

## **Itzel Sayuri Aparicio Saldivar**

Physiology, BS

## **Christopher Kainoa Aqui**

Computer Science, BA

## **Eireann Lagasca Arata**

Psychology, BA

## **Jade Jardyn Arellano**

Food and Nutritional Sciences, BS

## **Joseph Arinaza**

Nursing, BS

## **Abigail Rachel Arnett**

Cum Laude

Art, BA

## **William N. Ashford**

Accounting, BA

## **Samarth Ashish**

Business Administration, BA





# Baccalaureate Degree Recipients

(LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH D)

**John Joseph D'Agostino**

Cum Laude

Interior Design, BA

**Genesis Basilio Dacayanan**

Business Administration, BA

**Mhicca Lykka Dalere**

Applied Human Biology, BS

**Kayla Marie Davenport**

Magna Cum Laude

Illustration, BA

**Ceirra R. Dean**

Nursing, BS

**Justice Lee Dean**

Health and Fitness Education, BA

**Sara Megan Dean**

Cum Laude

Physiology, BS

**Jordyn Faith DeJong**

Summa Cum Laude

Biology, BS

**Elizabeth Delgado**

Physiology, BS

**Zahra Bint Diallo**

Nursing, BS

**Ndeye Meissa Diaw**

Interior Design, BA

**Allen J. Diaz**

Psychology, BA

**Gabriella Rae Dickey**

Magna Cum Laude

Nursing, BS

**Adam Barrett Dill**

Magna Cum Laude

Nursing, BS

**Ashley A. Diloreto**

Magna Cum Laude

Applied Human Biology, BS

Nursing, BS

**Sianna Rose Diloreto**

Magna Cum Laude

Business Administration, BA

**Angelique Djekoundade**

Physiology, BS

**Sammi Do**

Cellular and Molecular Biology, BS

**Shiera Faith M. Domingo**

Nursing, BS

**Serena Nichole Donaldson**

Global Development Studies, BA

**Aaron Michael Donohoe**

Cum Laude

Exercise Science, BS

**Natalie C. Dueck**

Cum Laude

Ecology, BS

**Leah Carolyn Duff**

Music Therapy, BA

**Lola Pomaikaionaanela Naone Duropan**

Cum Laude

Nursing, BS









# Baccalaureate Degree Recipients

(LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH I)

**Meriem M. Idris**

Computer Science, BA

**Shamil Joy M. Iumin**

Psychology, BA

**Halle M. Isaak**

Summa Cum Laude

Business Administration, BA

**Lydia N. Ismail**

Psychology, BA

Sociology, BA

# Baccalaureate Degree Recipients

(LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH J)

## **Kai M. Jackson**

Cum Laude  
Psychology, BA

## **Joel Janchenko**

Cum Laude  
Music Therapy, BA

## **Julianne Haeone Ji**

Magna Cum Laude  
Nursing, BS

## **Fiona Johnson**

Magna Cum Laude  
Nursing, BS

## **Isaac T. Johnson**

Apparel Design, BA

## **Judah D. Johnston**

Cum Laude  
Economics, BA  
Psychology, BA

## **Makenna Johnston**

Magna Cum Laude  
Nursing, BS

## **Bryce Mariko Jones**

Summa Cum Laude  
Business Administration, BA

## **Cecily Nida Jones**

Cum Laude  
Criminal Justice, BA  
Sociology, BA

## **Jaida Jones**

Magna Cum Laude  
Political Science, BA

## **Trista Anne Joy**

Summa Cum Laude  
Nursing, BS









# Baccalaureate Degree Recipients

(LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH O)

**Michael G. Orellana**

Cum Laude

Business Administration, BA

**Yoanna Nicole Orellana-Gomez**

Special Education, BA

**Nicole Orozco**

Psychology, BA

Sociology, BA

**Ethan J. Ortega**

Visual Communication, BA

**Janice Ou**

Nursing, BS

**Madison Ourada**

Nursing, BS

**Brizette Osaah Owusu**

Magna Cum Laude

Nursing, BS



# Baccalaureate Degree Recipients

(LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH Q)

**Brock Edward Quant**

Summa Cum Laude

Art History and Visual Studies, BA

History, BA

Honors, BA

**Karissa Roselyn Cantoria Quichocho**

Applied Human Biology, BS







# Baccalaureate Degree Recipients

**(LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH U)**

**Teru D. Ueki**

Cum Laude

Human Development and  
Family Studies, BA











# University Leadership 2024–25

## SPECIAL ADVISORS

### **Bo Lim, PhD**

Diversity and Belonging;  
Professor of Old Testament

### **Brian Lugioyo, PhD**

Mission Integration;  
Professor of Theology and Ethics;  
Dean of the Seattle Pacific Seminary  
and School of Theology







**SEATTLE PACIFIC**  
**UNIVERSITY**