



*White Coat
Ceremony*
CLASS OF 2029

August 22, 2026

CALIFORNIA NORTHSTATE UNIVERSITY
ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA
95757





Message from the President & Board of Trustees

Dear Members of the Class of 2029,

The White Coat Ceremony signifies the rite of passage into your journey to becoming a member of the pharmacy profession. Today, you receive a white coat from a faculty member, preceptor, or alumnus who will help guide you as you begin your path towards becoming a pharmacist.

The white coat symbolizes your acceptance of developing into a drug information expert that is devoted to patient care and advancing the profession of pharmacy. In the journey ahead, you will learn to understand the cliché “First, do no harm.” You will commit to treating patients with empathy and devotion, and contribute to the profession with newfound knowledge.

Members of the faculty will guide and support you throughout your learning, training, practice, and self-reflection until you are able and capable of performing the “entrustable professional activities as expected of a competent pharmacist”. As you are in your white coat day-in and day-out, you will soon acquire the ability, knowledge, and skills to develop your independent clinical reasoning and your ability to effectively collaborate as part of an interprofessional healthcare team to optimize patient outcomes, all after a few years of intense learning.

As you may already have realized, you are now beginning to move closer on the path towards transforming yourself from a student to a healthcare professional.

Congratulations,
Wai M. Chan, DDS

On behalf of the Board of Trustees
Drs. W. Chan, M. Delmore, A. Mikhailitchenko, C. Dominguez, A. Tong,
W. Tan, T. Gold, A. Matecki, A. Cheung





Message from the Dean

Dear CNUCOP Class of 2029,

Welcome to the California Northstate University College of Pharmacy (CNUCOP) White Coat Ceremony. The White Coat Ceremony celebrates your entry into the pharmacy profession and symbolizes your commitment to both the profession and the community. Once you embark on your calling to serve the profession of pharmacy, you gain the privilege of touching, guarding, healing, and rebuilding the lives of your patients. To gain the trust of the public and earn the privilege of touching patient lives, each pharmacy student must undergo rigorous coursework and clinical training to become competent in fulfilling the tasks of a pharmacist.

CNUCOP is known for its innovative delivery of pharmacy education. We have around 1600 PharmD graduates serving the public and the community in the role of community pharmacist, clinical pharmacist, professor in pharmacy, nursing or medical school, chief pharmacy officer, chief scientist with a pharmaceutical company, and top administrator in healthcare or the pharmaceutical field. Regardless of which pathway you choose for your future career, CNUCOP strives to prepare our students to assume integral roles in the pharmacy profession. There is no better time than now to join CNUCOP to advance the art and science of pharmacy through professionalism, responsibility, and involvement in our dedication to excellence. Being a pharmacist is a lifelong commitment of learning, service, caring and leadership.

Our students have successfully established themselves in clinical rotations, residencies, industry fellowship opportunities, and major leadership positions in national organizations and health care systems. CNUCOP's strong training in research has enabled our graduates to secure fellowship and job positions at major pharmaceutical companies since the inaugural class. As the only pharmacy school in the capital of California, our students are trained to be community and professional leaders from day one. Their achievements have been recognized by many regional and national awards and scholarships, including California Student Pharmacist of the Year, Top 10 U.S. Public Health Service Award, American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Gateway to Research Award, Steinberg Institute Champion, CPhA Quiz Bowl Competition second place winners, etc.

At CNUCOP, we do not train clinicians in isolation. We train healers who understand that a community's health depends on the team of physicians, pharmacists, psychologists, nurses and public health leaders. CNU's MD, DMD, PharmD, PsyD, PhD, MPS, MHA, BSN, BMS, and PreHealth-PostBacc programs are not silos—they are instruments in a symphony. And you, each of you, are a new melody. Together, we have made unprecedented history at CNUCOP. CNUCOP's success is also your success, because you are now an essential member of the CNUCOP family forever.

On behalf of CNUCOP community, we welcome the Class of 2029 to our family and look forward to sharing the pride and ownership of CNUCOP and writing the exciting chapter of the Class of 2029 with you.

Xiaodong Feng, PhD, PharmD
Professor and Dean
Vice President of Operations, Student Services and Admissions
California Northstate University College of Pharmacy





Keynote Speaker

Melissa Kimura, PharmD

Global Studies Leader, PDG

Genentech Roche

CNUCOP Class of 2018 Alumna



Dr. Melissa Kimura is a Global Study Leader within Product Development Global Clinical Operations at Genentech and a distinguished pharmacy leader with a career spanning clinical trial execution, patient advocacy, and healthcare governance.

A former President of the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA)—the nation's largest state pharmacy association—Dr. Kimura led the organization through a transformative three-year executive tenure (2023–2026). During her time at the helm, she spearheaded legislative strategy, drove statewide financial and membership growth, and authored CPhA's 5-year strategic plan. Prior to serving as president, she guided statewide policy development as CPhA's Speaker of the House of Delegates and led the local chapter through the height of COVID-era operational pivots as President of the Sacramento Valley Pharmacist Association. Today, she continues her commitment to early-career professionals as Treasurer of the CPhA Foundation, actively leading new fundraising drives to expand student scholarships across California.

In the biopharmaceutical industry, Dr. Kimura serves as an Associate Director, Global Study Leader at Genentech, where she oversees multi-million-dollar global Phase I–III oncology trial programs, drives decentralized trial strategies, and advocates for expanding health equity and patient diversity in clinical research. Dr. Kimura earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from California Northstate University and her B.A. in Chemistry from UC Santa Cruz.



Pledge of Professionalism

Sev Alexander, PharmD

Director of Medical Affairs MSL

Organon

CNUCOP Class of 2015 Alumna



Dr. Sev Alexander is a proud member of the CNU College of Pharmacy Class of 2015. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and Clinical Laboratory Science degree from the University of California, Davis, and later received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from CNUCOP, graduating cum laude. Throughout her career, she has worked across community pharmacy, clinical pharmacy, pharmacy benefit management, and the pharmaceutical industry. She currently serves as Director of Medical Affairs at Organon, where she helps educate healthcare professionals on biosimilars and pharmaceutical therapies. Since graduating, Dr. Alexander has remained closely connected to the CNUCOP community and enjoys supporting pharmacy students through mentoring and educational programs.



White Coat Ceremony Program

PRESIDING

President Alvin Cheung, PharmD, MHSA, Hon. MD

President & Chief Executive Officer
California Northstate University

MASTER OF CEREMONY

Tiffany-Jade Kreys, PharmD, BCPP

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions
Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical and Administrative Sciences

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Peter Tenerelli, BSPharm, PharmD, EMP

Director, Center for the Advancement of Pharmacy Practice
Associate Professor, Department of Clinical & Administrative Sciences

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Dalton McNeely

Student Life and Student Affairs Coordinator
California Northstate University College of Health Sciences

GREETINGS FROM THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Xiaodong Feng, PhD, PharmD, Hon. MD

Dean and Professor, College of Pharmacy
Vice President of Operations and Student Services

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Melissa Kimura, PharmD

CNUCOP Class of 2018 Alumna
Senior Global Studies Leader
Genentech Roche

PRESENTATION OF WHITE COATS

Tiffany-Jade Kreys, PharmD, BCPP

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions
Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical and Administrative Sciences



White Coat Ceremony Program

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Associate Professor of Pharmacology

Co-Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning

CNUCOP Director of Admissions

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Allison Hom, PharmD

Assistant Professor

Co-Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning

Department of Clinical & Administrative Sciences

Victor Phan, PharmD, MPH, CDCES, BCACP, BC-ADM, BCPS, APh

Associate Professor

Department of Clinical & Administrative Sciences

PLEDGE OF PROFESSIONALISM

Sev Alexander, PharmD

Class of 2015 Alumna

Director of Medical Affairs MSL

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CLOSING REMARKS

Tiffany-Jade Kreys, PharmD, BCPP

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions

Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical and Administrative Sciences

ACADEMIC RECESSION

Peter Tenerelli, BSPharm, PharmD, EMP

Associate Professor

Director, Center for the Advancement of Pharmacy Practice

Department of Clinical & Administrative Sciences





Doctor of Pharmacy Students
CLASS OF 2029

Amraj Bajwa, BS

Abigail Chao, BS

Jacob Cook, AS

Gustavo Cruz Barrera, BS

Karina Cruz Munos, BA, MPS

Kanchan Dhillon, BA

Xinyu Gao, BS

Salma Ghaith

Veyolait Hanna, BS

Loveleen Kaur, BS

Nicole Lau, BS

Gaolee Lor

Gurleen Mavi, AS

Valeria Molina Castillo, BS, MPS





Doctor of Pharmacy Students **CLASS OF 2029**

Eric Nguyen, BS

Matthew Nguyen, BS

Kanwar Parmar, BS

Quy Pham, AS

Aisha Qureshi, AS

Kayla Richardson, MS

Gabriela Rodriguez, BS

Manvir Sangha, BS, MPS

Justin Strand, BS

Marcie Tran, BS

Brian Tran, BS

Desiree Uzoh, BA

Remi Vang, BS

Haley Ventura, BS





California Northstate University

Pledge of Professionalism

I make this pledge with gratitude for the honor of being accepted and trained to become a member of this profession.

I commit to taking full responsibility for developing the professionalism, skills, knowledge, abilities, and conduct worthy of a member of this profession.

Hence, I solemnly pledge:

The health and well-being of my patients will be my first consideration.

I will respect the autonomy and dignity of my patients.

I will protect the confidences entrusted to me.

I will do no harm and uphold the utmost respect for human life.

I will uphold the honor and noble traditions of my profession.

I will respect and support my teachers and colleagues.

I will dedicate my life to the service of humanity.

I will teach and share knowledge for the good of society.

I make these promises solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.





Words of Wisdom

"It' always seems impossible until it's done" - Nelson Mandela

-Sukhjeet Khaira, Class of 2026

"Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." - Walt Disney

- Gillian Taganas, Class of 2025

"Be kind to the person you're going to be. Invest in meaningful relationships."

-Chrislyn Lawrence, Class of 2025

"Don't be afraid to try new things and get out of your comfort zone. You will be surprised by how many great opportunities can come your way. Most importantly cherish these years and create as many memories as you can!"

-Dr. Ludmilla Nicov, Class of 2024

"Participate in leadership activities and extra-curricular activities as much as you can; it will all be worth it in the end."

-Dr. Snehpreet Kaur Dhillon, Class of 2023

"Don't procrastinate; get things done early so you have time to play later."

-Dr. Raymond Huang, Class of 2023

"School will go by quickly but the moments you share with your class will stay forever."

-Dr. Gurminder Dhama, Class of 2019

"CNU provided me with many opportunities outside of school that helped me develop professionally. Take advantage of these opportunities to grow both professionally and personally."

-Dr. Anand Singh, Class of 2019





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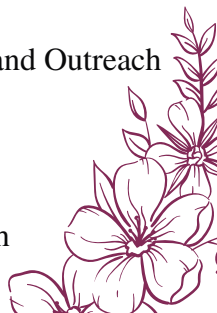
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Department Clinical and Administrative Sciences





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