



WARTBURG COLLEGE  
MASTER OF ARTS IN LEADERSHIP  
*Academic  
Hooding Ceremony*

SATURDAY, THE TWENTY-FOURTH OF MAY

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

NINE-THIRTY IN THE MORNING

WARTBURG CHAPEL



# **MASTER OF ARTS IN LEADERSHIP ACADEMIC HOODING CEREMONY**

## **\*Academic Processional**

### **Welcome**

Dr. Michael Gleason

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies; Irving R. Burling Distinguished Professor  
in Leadership; and Director, Institute for Leadership Education

## **History of Leadership Programs at Wartburg College**

Dr. Gleason

### **Class Speaker**

Daniel Digmann

## **Hooding of Candidates**

### **Presentation of Candidates**

Dr. Debora Johnson-Ross

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

### **Hooding**

Dr. Gleason

Dr. Theresa Moore, Assistant Director,  
Institute for Leadership Education

### **Knighting**

Dr. Rebecca Ehretsman, President  
Mike McCoy, Chair, Wartburg Board of Regents

## Charge to the Class

President Ehretsman

## \*Blessing

The Rev. Maggie Falenschek, Dean of Spiritual Life and  
Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Endowed Chair

## Academic Recessional

*Ceremony Music*

Carita Pfaltzgraff, Senior Lecturer in Music and Staff Accompanist

## Class of 2025

### *Master of Arts in Leadership*

**Alexander Schroeder Buchheim**

Waverly, Iowa

**Jami Dare**

Waverly, Iowa

**Daniel John Digmann**

Mount Pleasant, Michigan

**Alicia Faust**

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**Jermaine Martez Johnson**

Baltimore, Maryland

**Jennifer Marie McLain**

Coralville, Iowa

**Megan Pedersen**

Denver, Iowa

**Kara Roeder**

Fairfax, Iowa

# HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP AT WARTBURG COLLEGE

Wartburg College has long been at the forefront of leadership education in higher education. The Institute for Leadership Education was formally established in 1989 with the creation of the Irving R. Burling Chair in Leadership, initially held by Dr. Fredric Waldstein. Defining leadership as “taking responsibility for our communities and making them better through public action,” undergraduate students have learned about leadership largely through the leadership minor curriculum, which was implemented in 1998. Consistently the largest minor on campus, more than 1,200 students have completed the undergraduate leadership program.

High-impact community partnerships have been critical to the leadership education experience. These partnerships have included work with Community Builders, Community Emergency Response Training, and Retrieving Freedom Inc. In 2015, the Baldwin Leadership Fellows program was established through a generous gift by Mark and Peggy Baldwin to promote community engagement and leadership development among cohorts of undergraduate students.

Due to the success of undergraduate leadership initiatives and the alignment of leadership within Wartburg’s mission statement, the institution expanded leadership offerings beyond the bachelor’s degree. For that reason, Wartburg offers a Graduate Leadership Certificate and Master of Arts in Leadership. In 2024, Wartburg was honored as one of just twenty-five institutions across the United States to earn the Leadership for Public Purpose Carnegie Elective Designation, acknowledging its commitment to creating a pervasive campus culture of leadership development.

Wartburg’s cohort-based Master of Arts in Leadership is delivered entirely online and can be completed in under two years. Through an emphasis on real-world project implementation, students from varying industries and work sectors can address leadership challenges in their workplaces and communities. Students benefit not only from the expertise of instructors coming from different academic backgrounds and work experiences, but also from peers with equally varying experiences. A portfolio completed throughout the program helps students draw together learning from courses and demonstrate that learning to colleagues and employers.

Our graduating Master of Arts in Leadership students will be the third group earning master’s degrees from Wartburg, joining the 23 students who graduated in previous years.

# THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

The pageantry and dress of Commencement have been inherited from the medieval universities of the 11th and 12th centuries. Academic life as we know it today began in the Middle Ages, first in the church, then in the guilds. The teaching guild was the Guild of the Master of Arts, where the Bachelor was the apprentice of the Master, and the dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility. Principal features of academic dress are the gown, the cap, and the hood.

The hood is trimmed with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the hood facing denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining designates the university or college from which the degree was granted. The length of the master's degree hood is three and one-half feet and is trimmed with three inches of velvet.

The black hood of the Wartburg College Master of Arts in Leadership graduates includes one orange chevron, representative of Wartburg College. The peacock blue edging represents the field of public administration, which is closely associated with how we define leadership at Wartburg College.

## WARTBURG COLLEGE

Founded in 1852, Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning. Together, we create an inclusive community combining diverse curricular and co-curricular experiences to prepare students to be resilient leaders of positive change through service in a complex world.

Wartburg's nearly 1,500 students, hailing from 38 U.S. states and 39 countries, create a community where each person is known and valued for the unique experiences and identities they bring to the college.

The college offers undergraduate degrees in more than 80 areas of study in the arts and sciences. Wartburg offers a Master of Arts in Leadership, a Master of Science in High Performance, and a Master of Science in Sport Science and Data Analytics, and the college will continue to pursue innovative undergraduate and graduate programs aligned with our mission and strengths.





100 Wartburg Blvd. • Waverly, IA 50677  
[www.wartburg.edu](http://www.wartburg.edu)